

THE SECRETARIES

STUDIE:

B

Containing new familiar
EPISTLES. U* 8. 68

Wherein Ladies, Gentlemen, and all that
are ambitious to write and speak ele-
gantly, and elaborately, in a succinct &
facetious strein, are furnished with fit
Phrases, Emphaticall expressions, and
various directions, for the most polish'd
and judicious way of inditing Letters,

Whether

<i>Amerous,</i>	}	<i>Excusing,</i>
<i>Civill,</i>		<i>Requesting,</i>
<i>Housshold,</i>		<i>Gratulatory,</i>
<i>Politick,</i>		<i>Or,</i>
<i>Chiding,</i>		<i>Nuncupatory.</i>

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By S. S. Gent.

Sic juvat indulgere fugacibus horis.

London, Printed by T. H. for John Harrison
in S. Pauls Church-Yard, 1653.

SECRET

8 FEB 1951

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To the Right Honorable, and
most munificent, *Francis,*
Lord Willoughby of
PARHAM.

My Lord :

PROMETHEUS having form'd his
Image of Earth, presented it to the
Sun : I present (most honoured
Lord) this fraile Image of my Art,
to take light and life from your Sun-like Judge-
ment ; to whom if it shall prove delectable, it
shall not only excuse, but crown my attempt : if
your Lordship shall be pleased to pardon this hum-
ble addresse, it shall abundantly satisfie my mo-
desty, who dare not cherish so proud a hope as to
imagine your applause ; if it passe the Magel-
lan of your Lordships censure, it may with a full

The Epistle Dedicatory.

Sail defie the tempestuous Ocean of the Universe ; were there as many Worlds , as the world has Inhabitants, I shall not hope to enlarge the list of impossibilities, and please every mans pallate ; though your Lordship shall find here what one would think might make good such a busines, viz. variety, choice of change, and some things that Socrates himselfe might peruse in Porticu Zenonis : If any foole will needs laugh, I must needs do as fools do , and laugh for company ; yet with a more hearty laughter as was that of Chrysippus, when he saw an Asse forsake sweet Grasse and fall to Thistles. If this Miscellany may but abide the test of your Lordships judicious eye, (which cannot be unlesse you lay aside the person of a Judge for that of an Advocate) I shall not value vulgar votes.

My Lord, I am

Your Honours most humble,
and most devoted Servitor,



*To the Ladies, and Gentle-
men.*



Conclude it as impossible for these Epistles to breath their passions in your Closets and Studies, and you not to feel them in your bosoms, as it is for two of your Lutes to be set at the same pitch, and not both to move, though but one of them bee touch'd: if I have your allowance, I care not much what surly clown dislikes me, though I perswade my selfe these Essaies (not to be listed amongst those wanton Books which rather soile then kisse your hands) could arrive upon no coast so barbarous (this Isle excepted) where they would not gain a civility from the wildest Inhabitants. If these soft lines may be sweetned by your

The Epistle to the Reader.

mellifluous Accents, what I wrote to pleasure some particular friends, I shall not repent to have exposed to publick view; hoping somewhat to silence the puny *Aretines* of our Age, who take a delight to divulge lewder Ribauldry then that which seated *Ovid* near the banks of *Ister*; this patterne may perhaps ruine their designe, and teach those bold pretenders a more modest way of Courtship after the primitive way of wooing: this with your acceptance is infinitely desired, by

Yours in his very thoughts,

S. S.

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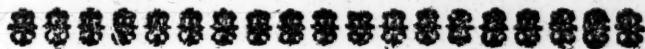
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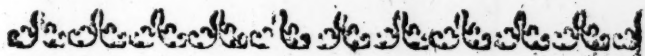
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Excuse

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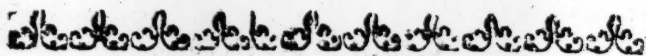
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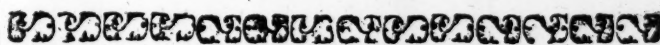
A thankfulnesse for recompencing the giving of a Book.

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AMOROUS

Th



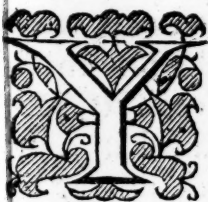
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AMOROUS LETTERS.

*The Lover desirous to expresse himselfe to his
Mistresse in the highest (though not bumbast,
or too much affected) Complement, thus ut-
ters himselfe by Letter.*

Divine Lady :



YOU were pleased to com-
mand me a service, which I
shall be proud to performe,
since Kings would glory to
manage your Mandats, and
the Saints would sure desert their blisse;
neereth but one accent from those lips, and
the winds will all contend, which shall
the first be made happy with it's convey-
ance, for your sweet voyce can charm the
Pyrens silent, and force the Crocodile to
have his feigned weeping at your looks;
B Palmas

Palms would renew their freshnesse, and aged hearts grow yong again; if you but weep, the Angels mourn; and had rash *Phaetons* Sisters beheld those drops, they never more would boast their Amber tears to be more pretious; had those Creatures, those book-minded men, that dream of other Worlds, and tell us of *Elysian* blessings, but knowne the joyes are in your love, they would have lost themselves (with me) in contemplation: Pardon my prolixity, Divine Lady, I am in a Labyrinth subtler then the Cave that held the *Cretan Minotaure*; 'tis easier to catch wild *Boreas*, make *Neptune* calm when he most rages, then to give your Worth its just Encomiums: O how happy am I in your love! your love which hath power to give a dumb man utterance, make Ideots Orators, and consecrate this cursed Age (when we are reduced to meer Barbarisme) only to Poets, whose immortall lines may celebrate your praises, the task of him who is,

Divine Lady,

Yours, not to live without you.

The

The Lady much taken with the Praises of her Lover, and (though affecting him dearly) yet desirous not to give up all too hastily, sends him this.

Dear Sir :

ME thinks I see Majesty couched in your serene Brow, upon your Tongue Eloquence enthroniz'd, within your looks Cupid in his best Array, and when you go, the humble ground doth sink, as if it render'd a due acknowledgement to your stately Port : But stay, stay, I give my passions too much vent, my affections lead me into a maze ; discretion advises to let Pallas rule, and Cupid serve ; Minerva can best direct us to our terene Elizium, which I wonder in your last you should narrate as a fiction, when we our selves can witness its reality ; you thought fit to make an experiment of my womanish ability, and may conceive, if need were, I could reverberate in an oyly phrase ; but to be more plain, (Dear Sir) though I cannot but confesse the affection I bear, yet (for I

have read the Poets) when I consider the monstrosity of your Sex in all Ages, that *Phyllis* confiding in *Demophoons* vows, did lay her bridall Pallet in the Grave, and that repentance soon made *Oenoes* angry tongue to condemn the rash credulity of her cares, and so may I; should I yield to passions hair-braind, wild instructions, though I dare (Sir, for we easily credit what we wish) conclude you in all respects Noble, which is the ardent desire of

Yours only.

The Lover perceiving his Mistressse (who hath manifested much affection to him) to waver in her resolves, proposing future mishaps, and creating Chimeras, thus lovingly chides her, and assureth his reality.

My best bliss:

I Hope it is not come to that passe, that you can be contented to dispute the matter with discretion, (for to consider in such a case, is to proclaim open war with *Cupid*) as though it lay in your choyce which

which way to travell to the Pallace of felicity; as though your wisdom could invent a way to oppugne the force of Fancy with a commanding hand, as though some divine inspiration had informed you of ensuing ills; I beseech you (if my fortune be so bad, that I must revive your memory) to go to that Grove where we called the Trees to witness, and swear by *Venus Myrtle*, and *Alcides Poplar*, that nothing but the fruit of enjoying one another should coole the fires of Love; there let us recount the words we counterchanged, the vows we contracted, and the tears we sucked up from each others faces; but I can say no more, unlesse I should compell my selfe to exclaim; I am unworthy to live, because my dearest life supposeth me unworthy to love, or be beloved, which if it be but in shew, as you break the Seals of this Letter, you break the strings of my Heart; yet though your thunder pass me in pieces, I will adore the hand that directed it, and remain

Yours,

Dying in constancy.

B 3

A

A fair Virgin being solicited by some very rich but exceeding old Gentleman, and resolving not to be incorporate with Rheums and Catarrhs, sends him her sinall resolve, thus.

Decrepit Sir :

YOUR dotting years have made you think your selfe very wise in fishing with a golden bait, presuming that your Gold hath as much power for the renovation of your aged Corps, as *Medeas* enchanting spels in reference to *Aeson*: you think, most aged Sir, that my ayms are fixed altogether on Lands, and that they frame their loves on silver Mines; you must know, Sir, that Treasure is no Loadstone for a Mayds affection: Alas, you are much mistaken in our Sex in this particular; for though Gold be welcome to enrich our Train, yet are we not so far in love with it, as for it to neglect the chiefe of all, the person of a man: should we permit the Flowers of our Youth to be nipt by Ages frowy Winter, and so bereave our selves of all those joyes that Nature hath

hath conferred on our Sex, and barter our blooming youth for earth and dirt ; no, Sir, you erre exceedingly : this is my resolution, Gold with a man (a man, Sir,) marke the Emphasis is good, but if I may make my own choyce, if so necessitated, Ile take the man, and refuse the Gold, which is the unalterable resolution,

Of a yonger then you.

The Lover having cause to fear the frailty of his Mistris, by the relation of his own confidence, deborts her from a new choyce.

Dearest happiness :

SInce the sympathy of our loves hitherto may be compared to well tuned Musick, you will be angry, perhaps, to hear that my heart hangs heavy on its strings ; *Atropos* being ready to bite my thread of life off, meerly of a jealous care, and indulgent suspicion, &c. O ! do not thinke that I have extolled those eyes that reflect a Sun-like lustre ; that I have doted on that favour and comliness, the contem-

plation whereof transports me ; that I have been enamoured on your Beauty which hath overcome me with admiration ; that I have been ravished with those kisses that have injected a new soule into me ; that I have been amazed to behold that face, the Map of loveliness, and all in vain : O my Dearest ! let the assurance of my desires warrant my hopes , and so remove my fear , and then may I lose this life , so I preserve your divinely excellent selfe , the life of my life ; but I will dare to think, I need no such expostulation, that I have made Vertue as well as Beauty the *Asylum* of my hopes , in which assurance I will rather triumph with joy , then pant for fear , and at last proclaim to the world, that there be Women will remember their vows, and can be loyall in spight of contradiction.

The Lover perceiving his Mistris to be pleased with her own applause, and addicted to Poeticall Fancies, thus sings her praises, &c.

Glory

Glory of thy Sex :

Historians may relate truly how Stones followed *Amphion* to the *Theban* wals, that lofty *Ossa*, and high *Panchaya* danced when they over-heard the *Odrysian* Lyre, that Dolphins grew tame at the mellody of *Arions* Harp, couching their scaley backs to bear him out of *Neptunes* foamy Surges, should the Salvage *Scythe*, or untamed *Get*, when they drive whole flocks of men manacled before them, on whose flesh they intend *Mors* shall ryot, but hear you speak, their fierceness would soon forsake them, one accent from your lips can work Miracles, twould raise a man that had long layn bed-rid; nay, were he witherd with feeble Age, one smile of yours would more perfectly recover him, then *Medeas* bathe did *Aeson*; how full is my content in enjoying your love? I am greater then him that governs the Orientall Empire, and may my strength and sence forsake me at once, if I ever faile to approve my selfe,

Your sincere Adorer.

A credulous Maid having given up her selfe to the disposall of him, who (having made her a Mother) quite deserts her, may thus (which sure must need mollifie the most obdurate temper) certifie him by Letter.

Cruel, and unkind :

THAT you (to make up the number of those who dare do wickedly) should so far degenerate from the goodness of your Creation, is my exceeding wonder; silly soule that I was, who having been warned so often by my experienced Mother, that mens Vows and Oaths are Traytors, should hug yours, letting them into my bosome, till they undid me : O! can you hate your selfe, or behold me on my bended knees, with wet cheeks and swoln eyes? can you hear my sighs and prayers, and yet be so cruel as not to compassionate the thing in my womb, which though of a lesse modell, is but your selfe cast in a yonger mould? if you mistrust it to be none of yours, be pleased to rip me up, and there you shall find each limb like to your
own,

own, as your own hand, your own eye,
and your own cheek, is like to another;
besides there lies folded by it your own
name, for you told me you would call it
so, and lest I should chance to forget it, I
wrot it in my heart, where you may find
it: O I beseech you! pity my disgrace, and
if you can be such a Caniball, as to slight
your vows, yet be so curteous as to kill me,
and I will record my selfe even in death,

None but yours.

*The Lover being threatned by his Lady, with
no lesse then death, in case he desist not, and
not being able to quit his suit, such is his af-
fection, and scorning to dread her menaces,
such is his magnanimity, thus answers her.*

Dear Lady:

O How much you mistake my temper,
to live and be deprived of your love,
is worse to me then ten thousand deaths!
I will not stile you cruel or hard hearted,
but a pitifull, kind, and loving Lady, such
is my affection to you; but for him that
dares

dares assault me, let him know I have a
 Ponyard for his Stiletto, and a Pistoll
 that barks as loud as his; but if I must
 fall your sacrifice, be pleased to know that
 when my harmless soule shall be trans-
 ported over *Charons* passage, should it but
 have intelligence you were injured, it
 would return, and kill your enemy.

Yours in life or death.

*The Lover finding (as it is the humour of some
 Ladies) that his Goddesse is desirous of some
 manifestation of his ardency, by some nota-
 ble perpetration, thus informs her.*

Beauteous Lady:

V Vhat demonstration of my zea-
 lous faith can your credulity ex-
 act? if there be any whom anger or your
 hate designs for castigation, doe but no-
 minate their persons, and it is as if the
Parx spoke? shall I contend in combate
 with some Lion, or else affront the ugly
 foaming Boar, what ever it be, command
 it, and tis done? shall I betake my self to
 the

the chill Russian Fields in the midst of
 winter, where my faithfull bloud may
 freez to Corall, and my sad laments con-
 geale with the gellid air? shall I devote
 my selfe a sacrifice to *Ætna*, or to *Nep-*
tune, or achieve to fetch the Golden
 Fruit from the scaly Dragon, or pluck fell
Cerberus from forth his stinking den? these
 or a thousand more, I will doe at your
 command; and in lieu of all let mee but
 have your love, and I am competitor with
Jove, and dare record my selfe more then
 mortall, yet *Your humblest Servant.*

Her Answer.

The Lover not having afforded those affectionate appellations, which his Mistresse expected, she thus chides him, assuring him of her reality, though doubting his.

Dear Sir:

I Have read, that it was the custome an-
 ciently of some Emperours of Rome, if
 they the least distasted the date and su-
 f to perscription of their Letters, they never
 would

would vouchsafe to have them opened : I will not serve you so , by taking such state, or imitation upon me, but will impute the breach of our covenant, concerning reciprocall titles , to a gentle triall of my simplicity and love ; but let me intreat that for the future, your forgetfulnesse or contempt, may not put in a finger, lest by intrusion or sufferance, it bring in a hand, and so the whole body ; why should you assume to your selfe a counterfeite liberty of trying my patience, when you know I would pull out my own heart , did it entertain a thought of alteration ? remember your selfe and those vowes you have contracted : remember me, and that affection you have enflamed ; remember vertue , and that goodness which you have commended ; and remember Love with that honesty you have professed ; and so I expect that as you are my chietest content, your next Letter shall confirme mee your choicest delight and

Yours for ever.

The

The Lover supposing himselfe sufficiently settled in his Mistresses love, and having now nothing to doe but to rejoyce in his happy fortune, thus complements by Letter.

My Dear, Dear :

L Et other Lovers content themselves with the birth of fancy, a thin phantastick aery Paradice, with which the weaklings make a shift to flatter their feeble hopes; my joyes, (my Dear, Dear) are known to sense; we gather odours in their native sweetnesse, flowers of a hew both bright and lasting, Roses and Lillies which blown from their stalks, meet and dwell upon thy cheeks, as if there onely they were priviledged to enjoy an everlasting spring, my imaginations doe feed even to a surfet, my senses are too weak and narrow to entertaine the bounteous flowings of thy pleasures, and I am enforced to let so much passe by unknown, as if I took but the tribute of thy blessings; let mee be thy *Mars*, and meet thee in a soft skirmish, in an amorous Duell, where I
will

will sometimes yeeld and let thee win, to
 rayse a pride in thee for a new victory;
 then shalt thou bind me in thy hair (the
 only fetters for captive Lovers) and in
 scorne of my trim youth and temperate
 bloud, when I begin to faint, supply mee
 with new strength from thy own eies, dar-
 ting a fowl at me with every glance, the
 ardent wish of *Thy humblest Servitour.*

*The Lover (a man of no mean fortune) having
 found a favourable aspect from some eminent
 and noble Lady, whom he entirely affects, and
 being now necessitated by some urgent occasi-
 on to a distant Country, thus by Letter.*

worthily honoured Lady:

I Could curse (did not Christianity
 thwart it) the rigour of my Fate, that
 necessitates me to an untimely banish-
 ment, just when there appeared life in
 your Patronage, Heaven in your smiles,
 and all the joyes of *Elizium* in your coun-
 tenance; yet when I cogitate to whom I
 have vowed my Devotion, that I am pro-
 strate

strate at the feet of Heroick/Worthyness,
I conceive great pleasure in my confidence, and begin to grow proud, that not dreading your deathfull frown, I may publish your Vertue, till Heaven shall make me so happy as to have experience of your Loyal constancy; give me leave, Divine Lady, to divulge to the World, that the Sphear in which I move is governed by your influence; that I cannot live without your favour; that I will languish to death, and perish in the dark, rather then to love without your licence; that I have no other Lady but your selfe, no other World then the place of your residence; thus leaving my soule in your tuition (which I beseech you preserve, for her own, yours, or my sake) hoping your commands, I rest in the best expectation,

Your fideliours Adorer, equally with Heaven or Honour.

*The Lover having cause to surmise that his
Mistresse hath entertained a new servant,
thus deborts her, &c.*

Divine Mistresse :

WHere so many Graces meet in one
Centre, *Viz.* Beauty, a Generous
Mind, a Noble Birth, solid Wifdome, af-
fable Demeanor, and the like ; it not on-
ly approaches absolute perfection, but
binds us to high and strict observation, to
prove which, I dare publish you as an in-
stance, it being the pride of my life to
justifie my soules desire to serve you,
and the glory of my bondage that my ser-
vice is acceptable to such worthynesse :
Command therefore, Divine Lady, but
withall command me to love ; for I can-
not live except I love, nor care I to dye,
so I attain your smiles, who are worthy of
all love ; yet my dearest happiness, I be-
seech you mistake me not, for though I
have subjected my selfe (like a Sovereign
Prince) I cannot brook a Competitor ;
Rivals in love being equally at fewd with
Rivals

Rivals for Crowns; I must not, nor cannot endure anothers claim, much lesse that any daring hand should ceize upon my right; be therefore circumspect for humanities sake, do not betray your Vertue to corruption, nor my poor valour to inevitable danger; for if you frustrate my hopes, either by willingness or wantonness, I renounce the World, all Women, and my selfe; but if the highest or strongest arm stretch out it selfe towards you with inhumanity or compulsion, it shall be my endeavour to force it back, or cut it off in the extension, which is the firm resolve of,

Lady, Your very servant.

The Lover being conscious that his Mistris hath some cause to carp at his indigency, &c. apologiseth, and indeavours to ingratiate himselfe.

My only happiness:

Beseech you remember that I cannot be destitute of a Will, and therefore consequently cannot evade love, and what can-

not or dares not love effect? if you suspect I will be too expensive, love will soon point out a way to frugality; is there a mistrust of Incontinency? love will settle Desire; is there a misprision of Folly? love causeth Discretion; is there a fear of Want? love hath no want, and contriveth impossibilities; is there a doubt of any thing else? love overcomes all intricacies, removes all remora's, and facilitates any difficulty; do not therefore credit the calumniations of those slanderous and professed enemies of Affection, for Truth witness for me, you shall find it otherwise; if you will needs rather adhere to their vituperative Allegations, then to my honest Assertions; let me know my Doom, that I may die quickly, since I must not live happily, and let Fame record me, as I fall,

Your Martyr.

A Lover of Noble Birth, but mean Fortune, having fixed his Fancy upon some Lady of an Illustrious Family, and fair Fortune, she have-
ing

*ing given him a scornfull, cold, or flat deny-
all, thus manifests his grieve.*

Excellent Lady:

HAd not my love received some little
life from the all-enlivening heat, is-
suing from your gracious acceptance, it
had no doubt recoyld, with the first vio-
lent rejection, with a civill acknowledge-
ment of your Greatness, and confessing
that the Stars are to be looked upon with
Veneration; I beseech you desist from
questioning my presumptuous attempt, or
afrighting me with the discrepancy of our
conditions, or sending me to Hell with
terroure of your losse; concerning my pre-
sumption, I shall answer, that it is easier
to reach at a high bough, then to stoop to
a low straw; it is glorious to be busied
in honorable designs, and he is made fa-
mous in the attempt, though he faile in
the conquest; concerning your Greatness,
we have many instances of Queens, and
Princesses, who have thought mean Per-
sons (respecting more their internals then
their

their externals) worthy their smiles ; nor is love tied to such Laws of privacy , but being naked himselfe, plainly mythologizes that he allows not of such distinctions, that the low ought not to be overawed with titular Dignities, or outward shows, nor the high priviledged from an amorous affection of the low ; for my selfe, I am in blood generous, and in affection truly loyal ; concerning discovery, who shall betray us but our selves ? O give not wings to my fears that some other will intrude, and ingrosse those immunities I would purchase with my life ! say not you could love my person, but honour commands a seperation of hearts : O there is death in that very sound ! nor can such a diffidence arise from any other Circle, then envy at my prosperity, or your own desire to a more worthy servant, the thought whereof strikes me silent, and unlesse you confidently resolve me what to trust too, I will not live to write you another Letter, but fall

Yours, and loves sacrifice.

A

A Guardian Virgin, being designed by him that hath her in his tuition for some rich Foole, whose minde and body she equally hates, thus starves him off by Letter.

Sir :

THough my *&c.* think me worthy of no better a Spouse then your ridiculous selfe, in serious tearms I cannot affect you; it is not your borrowed language that can charm me; if *Cupid* have no more powerfull Darts then what drop from your tongue, he can wound but little: Sir, it will argue your prudence to desist from this your enterprize; for my part, I had rather be of the society of *Danaus* Daughters, and be tormented in the abissive Hogsheads, then be your bedfellow; in short, I shall esteem more highly of a wise man in his shirt, then of a foole in his richest trappings; and for my own part I cannot love you, you know my resolution^c

Farewell.

*The Lover extols his Mistris perfections , and
obsecrates her reflections, thus :*

Incomparable Beauty :

WHEN I had first the happiness
to blesse my too prophane eyes,
with the sight of your divine person, me
thought I saw Nature open the store-
house of her accomplishments, and point-
ing to many rare and admirable pieces, at
length taking you by the Lilly hand (that
moist Adamant which attracts my soule)
and kissing your roseat cheek , she cano-
nized you the chiefe Saint in her Kalen-
dar, in whom all the Graces she had con-
ferred on others were artfully blended ;
her copious volume of Virtues, being epi-
tomized in you, you cannot therefore won-
der at my extasie , but rather applaud my
Judgement , for affying it selfe to so
deserving a subject ; (Incomparable Beau-
ty) consider me as a man, whose thoughts,
words , actions , life and soule , are sole
(next Heavens) at your appointment.

Yours not to live without you.

The

The Lover finding that all his prayers,
and services are to no purpose to win
upon his inexorable Mistris, thus like
the dying Swan, Poetically, takes a sad
and solemn farewell.

Cruel fair one : ———

——— Black, though fair,

*Cause of my life, and my despair :
Griefe that descends to words is weak,
But mine is full, and cannot speak ;
For how can Fate more cruel bee,
Then to grant life, denying thee ?
Yet I in death hope to adore
Those joyes, without which life is poore :
My reason's banish'd by my pain,
who can lose thee, and it retain ?
How soon was my calm soule dejected,
And ruine suffer'd ere expected ?
But since that blisse I hop'd was mine,
Thou to another wilt resigne :
Be happy in thy choyce, whilst I
In unregarded ashes lie :
Be happy in him, 'tis unfit
To wish thee joy, and hinder it :*

Then

*Then finish what thou hast begun,
 Encrease my grieve, and kill me soon ;
 And when I'm dead, let pity move thee,
 But to remember, I did love thee.*

Thy dying Servitor.

Her Clement Answer.

*The Layd having but counterfeited sternesse to
 him whom she affects dearly, only to make an
 experiment of his temper, and now perceiv-
 ing it will be dangerous any longer to practise
 such cruel dalliance, yields him this.*

Worthy Sir :

T*hat man doth (sure) unjustly love accuse,
 who through his own fear did occasion lose :
 To misse an offer'd happyness must be,
 Or want of love, or too much modesty :
 Thy scorn (Dear Sir) I have most justly won,
 who wanted light, when I embrac'd the Sun :
 O look into my heart ! thou wilt see there
 'Twas admiration only caused my feare ;
 Respect curb'd my affection, let me dye
 (Displeasing thee) by thy enflaming eye :
 Such death will make thy cruelty confesse
 I never wanted love though happynesse.*

Yours languishing.

The Lover having found that his Mistress hath entertained another servant, not only to her bosome, but her bed, thus scornfully intimates his knowledge, &c.

Lady :

YOU have excellently well proved, what I once condemned the Philosopher for divulging, that, men with ease can find Natures obscurest reaches, and over-reach the craft of Serpents, can tame wild Beasts, and bring all things to their subjection; only Woman with her deceits surpasses man, and confounds his best capacity; and therefore for thy sake I will henceforth evade all thy Sex as the most infectious scum of pestilence: O I could curse my credulity! had I not read that one base *Helen* ruined *Famons Troy*; that the pride of *Asia* (fair *Persepolis*) had still been glorious, had not *Thais* (that obscene *Thais*) by her witchcraft made fond *Alexander* to consume it by fire; each woman is a plague, and for thy sake I will henceforth curse their whole Sex: I am
none

none of those who carry hot houses, stoves in their blood; it seems I have been too cold a Lover, too modest with you, and therefore you reject me, and have taken some strong back'd Monster, whom perchance you have seen out of your window to bear some massy burthen, and his big made joints ne'r crack beneath his ponderous load; enjoy your Letcher, but think not to scape Divine punishment, though thou scape his anger, *who is*

One that abhominats thy perjury.

Her Answer.

The Lady being conscious of her own Innocency, or if guilty, being desirous to palliate the business, and if possible, to continue the affection of her incensed Lover towards her, may thus apologize.

Sir :

Wonder how it comes to passe that you call my love and modesty in question, for my civill entertainment of a Gentleman the last night, using such direfull imprecations

tions, and Satyricall expressions, that I have cause to think you quite distracted, or else that *Demogorgon*, and the Furies dictated to you whilst you wrot; I am not ignorant that Love is seasoned with a little Jealousie, but I cannot think my self in *Italy*, whilst I reside in *England*, where the practises of humanity teach us the true use of conversation; so that an uncorrupted heart is Cannon prooffe against a slanderous tongue; if you will believe me, there passed not one word, which a Vestall might not have been partaker of, and so if you are satisfied, I am pleased; but from henceforth be more confident of my Worth, and lesse suspitious of my Loyalty, this you receive in passion from her,
who is yours, if you wrong her not.

The Lover having ingratiated himselfe so far into the favour of his beloved, that she resolves to afford him private (though chaste) conference, she thus declares her willingness to meet him.

Sir:

Sir :

I Would to Heaven, as you have engaged my affection, so I had worth to deserve yours ; yet if love be begotten by sympathy of blood, what I have seen in your suspence, your eyes and words may at the least be good will, and that you may not think I participate of the rudeness you found too lately in others, I will sometimes meet you, &c. where you may have conference with me, with this caution, that you offer me no injury, till when, and ever

Yours in much reality.

His Reply.

Dear Lady :

IT seems you do not know me, seeing with such unnecessary care you instruct me, in a respect that I am obliged to keep for both our sakes ; yours, because I adore you, and he that loves cannot injure my own, because my Birth is Noble, which it could not be, if I had a desire to tyrannize over Women ; when Heaven hath cloath-

ed

ed the Night with Stars, I will meet you at the place appointed, with as much humility as love, where, if you please, we will contract a Union too strong for time to dissipate.

Your Adorer.

A Lady taking notice of her Inamorats Hyperbolicall Elogies in reference to her, and (though affecting him dearly) not desirous (for some reasons best known to her selfe) to have him proceed in that virulent humour, thus certifies him.

My best choice :

T Hough I can infallibly assure my selfe that by your liberall praises of me, some quick apprehensions discover the affection you bear me; I confesse I cannot take it so ill, as to think you worthy reprehension; yet by way of caution, let me inform you that it is not alwayes wisdom to speak what we think, nor report what we know, lest a captious ear mistake our Discourse, and a passionate heart give the tongue too liberall sway; those reciprocal

procall trials that have passed betwixt us, I think are sufficient confirmation of a mutuall coherency; but I implore you, as you expect constancy in me, let me have a retentive faculty from you, since I am resolved to love you, and none but you, while I subsist with breath, and that

I am yours, not to be disoblighd.

The Lover being deserted his suit at the first denyall, in despair ever to attain his desire, is thus animated to a new onset, by her who affects him.

Sir :

IF Anatomists tell truth, that say, in the center of our hearts there is a little concave, where there resides our best affections, then your augury must needs be truth in telling me it is in my power to love you, for all the love that lies there is engaged to your worth; though I must tell you, Sir, that you are but a faint-hearted Souldier, to be dashed at the first repulse; for though I can afford you heart-room in

in my brest, yet you might well think me very light should I be won at the first summons, without experience of your Loyalty; but know since first I saw you (this Paper cannot blush, though I do) I have been a true Devotarist to your lovely Vertue; I need say no more. (I hope) you have the thing thrown upon you, which you seemed to court with such ardency; let me hear from you with all convenient speed, for I am

Yours, as much as you can wish.

A Gentleman being inamoured on a fair face, accidentally discovered at a window, and being desirous to know whose prisoner fate hath allotted him, thus complements by Letter.

Bright Lady :

May justly say you are obliged to favor me, having cost me so many infinite cares, without any recompence, although ever since the last night I have resolved to be more fortunāte, concluding to die rather importunate, then bashfull; for

D

my

my Birth is Noble, and will not suffer me to flie from any attempt; that which I now desire is, to see you, if perhaps my love have merited it; and since Heaven suffers it selfe to be loved, and you appear Angellicall, be like in condition as in beauty; for if your beams inflame me, it is but justice I should know the spear from whence they come; this, sure, you cannot in honour deny, to

Your devout Adorer.

A Lady having commanded her Inamorate (the small Pox, or some other macerating disease having a little fed upon her face) not to visit her, he thus evades the rigour of her request.

Dearest :

IT was a strange countermand you lately sent me, not to visit you, because your late sickness had affronted you to your face, as if my liking depended wholly upon outward shews; know (my Dearest) that my Reason commands my Passion, I
courted

courted a vertuous *Cassandra*, not a fair *Hellen*, a noble spirit, not an outward feature; though I dare assure my selfe no sinister accident whatsoever can have the power to master your Beauty or Bounty, Time only excepted, which must wear us out with death, and then shall our united soules welcome a blissefull perpetuity; and therefore I pray you recall your mandate, let me wait on you, and it be for no other reason but to manifest how much I am a lover of Vertue, and to your selfe

An obsequious Vassaille.

A Gentleman (for reasons best known to himself) having for some time been a Suiter to a Lady, not discovering his Birth or Estate, she affecting his person, yet being cautious on whom she bestows her selfe, thus adjures him to a discovery.

Noble Sir :

Have long desired to know a truth, though for fear of exposing my selfe to the hazard of dying, I have not demanded

ded it ; but that I may not remain ever in this suspence , I will boldly adventure my life , it concerns me no lesse then my honour and quiet to know who you are , that I may dispose of my selfe with some resolution , and hereof I require no other testimony then from your own mouth ; for I have so great an opinion of you , and repose so much confidence in your worth , that I am sure you will not deceive me ; and therefore I conjure you by my selfe , and by the love you say you bear me , to satisfie me in this respect , which I assure you detains my soule in extraordinary affliction , this you must do speedilie , as the desire of

Yours,

If it may be.

Some Captain or eminent Commander being in love with a Lady , who lately taxed him by Letter , or otherwise , to be affianced to another , thus vindicates himselfe , and affording his Mistris her due praise , implores her smiles.

Lovely

Lovely Lady :

YOU were pleased (to the great grieve of my soule) lately to tax me of levity, as if having listd my selfe a servant under your colours, I had basely ran away to another Regiment : No, be assured (Dear Lady) you are the only life of my hopes, and for the Creature you were pleased to mention, be pleased to know, that I'll sooner make my mansion in a Sepulcher, sooner embrace an ayry *Succubus*, or mingle limbs with some ulcerous Cripple, able to infect an Hospitall, then be incorporate with that Fiz-gig : Alas Lady, I am not easily *Cupids* captive, yet though my obdurate sufferance in active War hath quite deprived me of all amorous gesture, yet I melt before your eyes, for you are none of the fresh Nursery that practise the sublime frisk, none of you jigging Girles, that pearch *Paraquetts* on their fists, and march abroad, like *Venus* Falconers, nor none of those that advance high swagging plumes upon their heads, like a gay fore-horse in a Country Teeme ; I

have hitherto found your heart (Dear Lady) like a pibble smooth, but stony; but for the future I shall hope to discover your more soft and pliant temper to

Your affectionate servitor

The Lover being absent from his Mistress in another Land, and having received intelligence (which he dares not altogether credit) that his loved one grows loose ith' hilts, thus cautelously certifies her by Letter.

My best Mistress.

I Would not prove my selfe clandestinely averted from my former constancy, cogitating I not only plaid the wanton with affliction, but have had you a Spectator to my great encouragement; yet some unkind fear begins now to stagger my resolution, because (if Fame tattle a Truth) I find a falling away amongst our selves, like loose earth from a main bank, and begin to grow anxious, that this banishment of mine, will disjoint the frame of our long acquaintance, else how can it be that

that I am lost to your memory ? but this is the corruption of power, either you think to make us slaves by observation, or dare not your selves be vertuous for fear of combersomnesse ; as for Friendship, Kindness, Love, Faith, Loyalty, Respect, and generous disposition, they are but voyces and smoak, and (as you all make the matter) like *Tantalus* Apples, which once touched convert to Cinders, though to the eye they appear substantiall and glorious, run on, arm in arm, in the race of contempt, and at last triumph in my dejection ; but I beseech you (my best Mistris) mistake me not, but impute all this, rather to the distraction of my own fears, then your defects, for I have ever loved your worth, and while I live will think you worthy to be beloved, else may I never subscribe my selfe

Yours, as you prove worthy.

*The Lover having found that his Mistris
(whose love contrary to the desires of her
D 4 friends*

friends he hath attained) hath many Argos's to watch her, thus counsels her to practise a disguise.

My sole happiness :

Thy &c. holds still a most jealous eye over all my actions, and I am advised by my friend, E. D. that suspicious ears are still behind the hangings, and that the servants have from &c. in command to watch who visits you ; 'twill be best and safest in my judgement, in his presence, that thou forbear to cast a smile upon me, and that like old *December*, I should look with an unpleasant and contracted brow ; though I change my countenance, my heart shall be as Loyal as before ; the World must be deluded with outward *Species*, we must blind their eyes with mists and shadows ; you must take it as a play, not as a truth, think it a formall, not a reall frown, we will not long be in these perplexities, if *Hymen* can help it, and so farewell my sole happiness,

I am thy eternall Votarist.

The

The Lover having before professed love to another (the occasion that he is now twisted by his new Mistress) whom he resolves to relinquish for her sake whom he hath now in quest, thus certifies his better choice of the reality of his intent.

Glorious Lady :

I Confesse that before I saw you, I treated of a Marriage with &c. but I assure you after I beheld your divine Beauty, and believed that I had attained some place in your affection, I altered my resolution, to comply, I hope, with your affection, I engage my selfe never to marry as long as I live, unlesse with you, on whose lips the enamored Aire still hangs, as if desirous to suck a blessing; 'twas no Fable (I dare assure my selfe, now) that bold *Boreas* ravished fair *Orythia*, since I see him haste to plunder your too pretious breath, the breath your words expire with, which will make his own sweeter then *Syrian* Wines, when nought but Myrrhe, and Bisse perfume them,

them, yet have been pleased to give me
a kind of grant to compleat my happiness
with a full assent, and ever command, as,

Your obsequious servitor.

*One Lady counsels another (her intimate
friend, whom she hears is towards Marri-
age) not to be caught with promises, till the
knot be knit, &c.*

My dear Love :

THere is a loud rumour of the Yong
Knights affecting you, wherein Love
hath dealt like himselfe, and appointed
certain limits to his passion, he having
promised conditionall Marriage, if you
please to afford him primordia'l satis-
faction; let no man boast of dividing
you (you know the occasion of the
speech) till you yield him possession of
altogether; for it is a caution even a-
mongst Wantons, not to marry with him
to whom dotage or misfortune hath pro-
stituted them; for what hope is there but
of a following eternall jealousy? &c. and
when

when a breach is so made, a continuall roaring and thundring of whole vollies of checks, taunts, and opprobrious terms of Whore, Strumpet, filth, what had I but another might have gotten? and what know I but thou art still a broken Glasse, never to be cemented again? therefore (Dear Love) stand upon a strong guard of circumspection, and do not expose the certainty of your attractive worthinesse (having Youth and Beauty) to the uncertainty of deceitfull promises; this my zeale prompted me to advertise, though I know you are every way accomplished, and need not my advice, yet let my affection plead my pardon, since I am

Yours in prevailing truth.

The Lover upbraids his perjured Mistis with breach of faith.

Vile woman:

IS it possible thou canst find in thy heart to dispossesse an affection of so many years and pains? could not thy quality acquit thee of lightness? O how ill doth

a deceitfull promise become one that professeth so much worth? Dost thou so injuriously requite so observant a Lover? I perswade my selfe the reason why thou enjoynest me to conceale my affection, was for fear of making thy new Lover jealous; ungratefull Wretch! I will begin my revenge in punishing him whom thou lovest best; I will proclaim thy lightnesse, the world shall know these — years that I have served thee, I have been in such favour with thee, that thou never usedst pen, but to assure thou wert mine; thou hast deceived thy selfe (false woman) deserting me for a stranger, that couzens thee with a profession of reality; it would be as much impiety in me to consent to this, as it is treachery in thee to effect it: Have I for this canonized thy worth to all Posterity in deathless Poesie, extolling thy eyes as Speares of light, thy fore-head as a plain of Lillies, thy hair as the riches of Arabia, that thy cheeks are Roses, thy teeth Pearls, thy neck Alabaster, thy breasts Snow, and thy hands Ivory? but I
will

will devest thee of all those Appellations,
and so delineate thy deservings, that thou
shalt become the scorn and by-word of
the present and ensuing Age, else let the
same Fate fall like thunder upon the head
of *E. G.*

*A Mayd or widdow having been deluded by
some false man, who bound himselfe by Oath
to marry her, and now keeps company with a
common Prostitute, thus manifests her griefs.*

Unkind Sir :

TO what purpose have you made me
believe, that you never spake sentence
but love joyned the words; never breathed
Vow, but Vertue instructed the heart;
never performed action, but worth was
the load-stone that attracted your indus-
try? and yet you can glory to wipe away
all with the slight hand of carelessness,
forsaking me without a cause; abando-
ning a true and faithfull friend, for the
beastly love of a Strumpet; whose eyes
sparkle with deceit, and whose very
smiles

smiles are more dangerous then Crocodiles tears, which commonly weep over such as they mean to destroy; have I not heard you tell the Tale of a Passenger, who comming over a dangerous water, upon a narrow bridge, being drunk, and returning the next day to see what adventure he had escaped, dyed with the apprehension? and what is a Whores conversation, but a suddain perrill o're-passed with fear and trembling? certainly you are utterly insensible of good, or desperate of all bad, otherwise you durst not so slight Heavens vengeance, and Virtues curses; I mean my own cries and tears practised towards your

Most abused friend.

The Lover having been so rude as to deny his Mistress a request, she thus informs him of her anger.

Sir:

I Perceive that poor unfortunate persons, may well be resembled to threatening tempests,

tempests, from whose violence every man seeks shelter (though you cannot forget the time when you protested me every way accomplished;) else how could it have been that you returned me a flat denial instead of a full performance, &c. Nor is that all, but of late you shun my company, and slight her whom you once so much courted with deep Vows and Protestations; I will be so far from immodesty (and by this you may guess how much I affect you) that I will impute your averfeness to my ill-deserving, not your bad disposition, since I am resolved to be
Yours, if you will have it so.

A chaste Lady having been upbraid'd by him to whom she is affianced, of incontinency, or at least of too amorous gesture to another, thus vindicates her selfe by Letter.

Sir:

I Am not ignorant that the Poets have invented a Marriage between *Cupid* and *Jealousie*; I know that true love is sometimes

times seasoned by pritty contradictions, and softly raised suspicion; but to be over vehement in accusation, and absolutely to conclude an affirmative by fond supposes, and groundlesse constructions, are beyond my reason, and (I suppose) ought to be inconsistent with your fair demeanour; the Gentleman that I was yesterday at the Tavern with, deserves rather your courtesie for his noble deportment, then your extravagant censure; but you will perhaps say, that our fancies being settled, and I having yielded my selfe up to your disposall, it was idly done to go at all; I could say so too, if a Mothers desires, a Sisters importunity, and a Kins-womans instant intreaties, had not been too strong for my weak denials; besides I was not as (I take it) under any penalty of infringing your will, you not imposing such a task on me, nor would I be so absolute a slave, though the name of Husband and Wife had linked us together with the Churches Ceremonies; be therefore, Sir, satisfied with my justifiable excuses,
and

and believe it I will rather forswear the hopes of Marriage, and the glory of costly Ornaments, before I will leave you again in such a Hell of affrighting jealousy, yet I dare subscribe my selfe

Yours, if you are so resolved.

A Lady having notice that her Lover is too familiar with a Lady of pleasure (the occasion that he slights her company more then he was wont) thus declares her dislike.

Sir :

However these dangerous practises of yours may be vailed or varnished over with excuse of trials, and as it were touchstones of my modesty and constancy; yet I beseech you deale not with me as some strange Physitians do with their Patients, who because they find their bodies strong and able to endure, will therefore prescribe violent potions and raging poysons for their Receipts, and so perhaps to see you visited of friends, and bearing your selfe as time and place requires, this

E

I

I can passe over as things of course, and make my heart believe there is no perill in such circumstances; but to hear that you daily converse with that fantastick Lady, whose eyes are nets to entrap wiser men; I cannot allow so strong a presumption, or make it my Creed that you can come off unsnared or uncorrupted with allurements; therefore I request you, if not for love, yet for pities sake, throw me not so violently into the turbulent Sea of jealousy, for I am a poor slender Barke, and built for shallow waters; but you will say you are Master of your selfe, and can command your affection, to what end then do you afright me with these indirect straglings? I shall intreat you to appoint your selfe stricter limits, otherwise I will not believe but that you wish an alteration, and are desirous I should no more subscribe my selfe

Yours,

In all the bonds of affection.

A Gentleman being calumniated to a Lady (whom perhaps he affects) of detracting from her honour, bus vindicates himself by Letter.

worthily honoured Lady :

I Thank you on the Knees of Gratitude for that most noble favour, so glorious and like your selfe, both to send away my Accuser without entertainment; and not to condemn me, before you heard my Answers; my best Lady, you know, and many better men then he have told you, that I am so far from wronging you with a falshood, that I have maintained your honor with the hazzard of my life against any that ever durst vituperate you; when (as the time was) you gave me cause to distaste your unkindness, I would not permit another so much as to whisper against your injustice; therefore I beseech you, continue your own worthiness and good opinion towards me, for however out of passion I may suspect my thriving in your estimation; believe it, out of judgement, and the true sence of that dutious regard I

ow you; I will not suffer any one to tra-
duce your fame, for I am

Yours only to be commanded

To the onely life of his desires.

The Lover is afraid to lose his Beloved.

Sweet Soule :

WHat mean you to do with me? or
what think you I shall do with my
selfe? considering your Verrues, which
tearm excellencies, have been Adamants
of my ferventnesse, and I erected my build-
ing upon so good a foundation, that you
have compared the Simpathy of our loves
to well tuned Musick: From whence comes
then this retraction? or how can you be
so cruel to terrifie me with suspition? O
do not think that I have praised those eyes
which my supposes, in absence, imagine
to reflect a very Sun-like lustre? that
have doted on that favour and comliness
which in the contemplation did ever
transport me beyond my self? that I have
been enamoured on your beauty, which

in the gazing hath overcome me with admiration? that I have been ravished with those kisses, which seemed an infused life to my distracted heart? that I have been amazed on that face, which me thought was a very map of loveliness, and all in vain? as though I could passe over the remembrance of my contentment with slightness, and frame my selfe to believe contraries. No, no (*Sweet Soule*) I shall not, may not, nor cannot. For it is not the Fathers frowns, nor the Brothers storming, that I respect, but your sadness and tears, your sorrow and complaints, which me thinks resemble spots disgratiously chancing to pure linnen; be therefore the pattern of your selfe: Let Vertue remain unmaimed; continue constant and well satisfied; and for my part, what ever goodness may arise from our allowable proceedings, I will justify. To be plain, let the assurance of your desires warrant my hopes, remove my jealousy, and I will lose this life, rather then thus hazard the life of my life: But I hope I

have encountred with an understanding Woman, and there shall need no such expostulation. Nay, I am assured I have cast my selfe into the lap of vertue, which like the square Die, being every way thrown standeth upright, so that if there should be any blocks in the course of our justifiable desires; either a strong arm of policy shall tumble them aside, or a noble resolution spurn them away in scorn; in which assurance I will rather breath with joy, then pant for fear; and at last proclaim to the world, there be women will remember their vowes, and can be loyal in spite of contradiction or calumniation.

Your afflicted Friend

To his fulness of Contentment.

The Lover distracted with fear of hazarding
his desire.

My only Beloved:

I Had not thought love, especially in such Youth, had been capable of moderation, that already you can be contented to
dispute

dispute the matter with reason, and to
consent to the peevish restraint of ill con-
cluding Arguments, which some envious
tongue hath whispered unto you. O that
our first meeting had received this re-
straint! then with small griefe I might
have over passed my tear; or had the fire
been kindled with artificiall degrees, I
might have prevented the flaming out-
right. But now when I am in the violence
of my speed, when the heart burneth with
passion, when my very life dependeth on
the hope of your assent, and that, in a ma-
ner, you resolved my cure and redresse, to
stand at a stay, to dispute the matter, to
find cause of distasting, worketh in me im-
patience; so that I know not how to de-
mean my selfe. O! do not slightly passe
over these things, or with an unkindly
gravity censure my proceedings. Remem-
ber, I have, will, and must love, and what
cannot or dare not love effect? is there a
suspicion of prodigality? love will be a
shepherd, nay a slave: is there a mistrust
of incontineney? love will settle desire,

and quite extinguish all flames of unjust concupiscence: is there a breaking out of folly? love worketh discretion, and reformeth abuses: is there a fear of want? love hath no want, and contriveth impossibilities: is there a doubt of any thing else? love attaineth any thing else, and facilitateth any difficulty: Alas, what could I not say to plead for my selfe? what would I not say? nay, what would I not do to please my selfe, especially when such loveliness enamoureth? do not therefore believe; faith and honesty bids you not believe; my selfe bids you not believe these slanderous enemies of affection, these brokers of misreports; for I protest you shall find it otherwise, and they in the disceputation prove ashamed of wronging the innocent: Let me therefore come to appease them; let me come to satisfie you; let me come to justifie my selfe; nay, let me come to die quickly, or live happily; for this is intollerable, and I cannot credit my fears, nor believe these tormenting apparitions.

Your living dying Friend.

To the only hope of his Fortunes, Mrs. B.

Love occasioned through a unity of inward vertues
and outward comlyness.

My Souls life :

WHen I beheld you first, me thought nature determined to open a store-house and shew us some excellent workmanship, and so as a man longing for novelties, I looked and gazed on the same, yea with admiration commended her handiwork; but after I had considered what inward vertues caused the motion of this outward worth and loveliness, I could not but compare it to a rich Casket, containing within it more richer Jewels; so that you must not wonder at my liking the same, but rather maintain the cause of my judgement, for bestowing it selfe on so well deserving a subject; nor is this flattery or idle discourse, but justice in yours, and necessity in my case; for as you have inflamed mine affection, so there must be used some means of satisfaction.

Thus

Thus requesting you to consider me, as a man, whose thoughts, words, actions, life, soule, and all attend you, not daring to behold the Sun of the world, till they receive comfort from the Sun of your favours, I remain

The honourer of your matchless perfection.

To her chiefest Contentment.

The Lover findeth fault with neglect of Titles.

My Love and Joy :

I Have read, that the Emperours of *Rome* did commonly look on the date and superscription of their Letters; whereat, if they were distasted they rejected the same, and would not over-view them further; but yet I will not serve you so by taking such state and imitation upon me, but impute your neglect of our Covenant by reciprocall titles, to a gentle triall of my simplicity and love; withall, intreating henceforward, not to let forgetfulness or contempt put in a finger, lest by intrusion or sufferance it bring in a hand, and so

so the whole body: For why should you give me any cause of suspicion, when a warrant is sealed of our happiness, or assume to your selfe a counterfeit liberty of trying my patience, when y^e u know I will pull out mine own heart, before it shall entertain a thought of alteration? therefore I pray you remember your selfe, and those vōwes you have contracted; remember me, and that affection y^e u have inflamed; remember vertue, and that goodness which you have commanded; and remember love, with that honesty you have professed; and so I expect, that as you are my chiefest content, your next Letter shall confirm me your choicest delight.

None but yours.

To the Honourable Lady, T.G.

Love complaineth of sequestration.

Honorable, and worthyly honored Lady:

Although fame set open the enclosure of your praises, whereby Honour and Vertue remain exposed to the World, as
you

you see a rich Diamond augmented in his lustre by the cunning of the workman ; yet is misfortune so tyrannous unto me, that I am necessitated to an untimely banishment , even when there appeared life in your patronage, and delight in your loveliness ; so that now to sequester my selfe is an absolute walking in darkness, and a miserable staggering without supportation. Yet again , when I consider , with whom I have encountred , and that I am falne into the hands of a generous spirit, and heroick worthiness ; I conceive great pleasure in my confidence , and I begin to grow proud, that I may publish your vertue, I dare say loyall Constancy. Be therefore then your selfe great *Lady*, and let the opinion I conceive of my fortunes, encourage my endeavours , that all the actions my industry shall undertake may receive life from the beams of your name : Then though I might raise my glory equal with the Sun , I would not faile to lay it prostrate to your high acceptation ; and so I request you give me leave to divulge to
the

the World, that the sphere, in which I move, is governed by your influence, that I cannot live without your favour; that I will not love, except you vouchsafe it; that I have no other Lady, but your selfe; no other world then the place of your residence: And thus I bid you fare as well as wishes can enlarge, leaving my soule in your tuition; which if you preserve for her own, yours, or my sake: O how happy shall I be, and with glad tidings will it return unto me, and (I hope) command me to return unto you? and so I rest in the best expectation, and *lascia la honorata manu.* *Your Honors devoted.*

*To the Honourable and his highly respected
Lady, B. S.*

Love cannot endure a Rivall or Competitor.

Right honorable Lady:

I Cannot deny but a Diamond is a pretious stone, though imbedded in lead: but excellently polished, and set out to the best becomming, it must needs constrain a
farther

farther praise and admiration ; so fasteth it with Virtue, which no question is allowable in the meanest persons ; but when there is a uniting of many graces, as beauty, generous mind, noble birth, settled wisdom, affable demeanour, and such like ; it not only approacheth absolute perfection, but bindeth us to high and strict observation ; of all which I must and dare publish you a instance, so that it is the pride of my life to justifie, my soules desire to serve you, and the glory of my bondage, that I am made servile to such worthiness ; command therefore (*great Lady*) but withall command me to love ; for I cannot live except I love, nor care to die, so I may love you only, who are worthy of all love. Yet my dearest happiness, I beseech you mistake me not ; for howsoever I have subjected my selfe, I (like a Sovereign) can indure no Competitor ; and although it cannot be chosen, but the very Stars overwatch you, and therefore many eyes on earth look toward you, and many hearts wish you well ; yet shall I
never

never endure anothers claim, much lesse a daring hand to take you in possession; be therefore thus circumspect for humanities sake, not betray your vertue to corruption, nor my poor valour to inevitable danger. For if you frustrate my hopes either by willingness or wantoness, I renounce the world, all women, and my selfe: But if the high strongest arm stretch it selfe toward you with inhumanity or compulsion; my rest is up to make it shrink back again, or cut it off in the extension.

Yours in death it selfe.

To the Noble and truly vertuous Lady, F. M.

Love will hardly be supprest, after it hath taken
firm rooting.

Most worthy Lady:

HAd not my love received life from the breathing heat issuing from your gracious acceptation; it might well have recoiled with the first violent rejection, and taken out a new Lesson of restraint, with a civill acknowledging your greatness,

ness, and confessing that the Stars are only to be looked upon with an abasing reverence ; but you know , (and none but you shall know) that when I made my selfe a stop , as afraid to go further then either my strength or policy could direct me , a lovely hand tooke me by the arm, and drew me along to the height of my happiness, wherein I will sit as glorious, as the Sun in his strength, and in despite of malignant circumstances, or malevolent aspects, embrace my fortune with gladness : Therefore I pray you desist from questioning my presumptuous attempt, or affrighting me with your greatness, or tormenting me with discovery, or murdering me with suspicion, or sending me to Hell with terrour of your losse : For I dare, and will thus answer every particular. Concerning my presumption, it is easier to reach at a high bough then to stoop to a low straw ; it is glorious to be busied in honorable designs ; and he is made famous in the attempt, though he faile in the conquest : It is a worthy resolution

resolution to aim at a well-deserving object ; and however the hazard be , there is a show of a generous spirit , sith fortune and love are painted blind in their Portraitures. Concerning your greatness, we have many instances of Queens and Princes pulling up inferior persons to honour ; nor is love tied to such Lawes of privacy, but being naked, himselfe shews plainly , that flesh and bloud lies as naked to the incursions of his passions in high and low ; the low not over-awed with titular dignities, or outward shows ; nor the preheminance of the high privileged from amorous affecting the low. For my selfe, I am in bloud generous, and in affection fully contracted to loyalty : Concerning discovery, who shall betray us but our selves ? nay, who dare whisper against us but jealousy ? and in that lies the secret of our prosperity. For what is difficult to get, is carefully preserved ; and where there is danger in the adventure, there is sweetness, and joy exceeding other joyes, when the perill is over-passed :

F

there-

therefore be you repoyed, and let me bustle with mischance ; for I am resolved to love you against all over-watchings. Concerning sup'pition, O give not wings to my fears! that some other will intrude and participate my immunities ; or do you it only to make a triall of my spirit ? Believe it, before I will consent to such baseness, I will pray for *Sampsons* strength to pull down the house on all our heads together. And concerning your losse , O there is death in the very sound ! and it cannot be raised out of any other circle, then envy at my prosperity, or your own desire of a more worthy servant, whereat I am now struck silent ; and unlesse you confidently resolve me what to trust unto, I will not live to write you another Letter.

Yours, not to live without you.

To her best Choyce, C. D.

Love desires secrecie, not over liberall discoveries.

My Loves pride :

Although I am enformed, that by your liberall praises of me, some quick apprehension

prehesion discovered your liking, yet cannot I take it so ill, as to draw you within the compasse of reprehension, because I would not slack the first vehemency, wherein love hath nobly displayed his colours on all sides: Let us therefore continue resolute, and if by some small absence we sometimes slack the burning of these fires, shall it not resemble a Smiths Forge, who casteth water on his coals to strengthen the heat, and make the flame more glorious? yet by way of caution, it is not alwaies befitting to speak what we think, nor report what we know, lest a captious eare mistake our discourse, and a passionate heart set the tongue at randome. As for our selves, there hath been made a reciprocall triall; and for my own part, as you expect constancy in me, I request secrecy in you, and so am resolved to love you, and none but you, while I am warm in my hearts bloud.

Yours in the midst of fear.

ness, and confessing that the Stars are only to be looked upon with an abasing reverence ; but you know , (and none but you shall know) that when I made my selfe a stop , as afraid to go further then either my strength or policy could direct me , a lovely hand tooke me by the arm , and drew me along to the height of my happiness , wherein I will sit as glorious , as the Sun in his strength , and in despite of malignant circumstances , or malevolent aspects , embrace my fortune with gladness : Therefore I pray you desist from questioning my presumptuous attempt , or affrighting me with your greatness , or tormenting me with discovery , or murdering me with suspicion , or sending me to Hell with terrour of your losse : For I dare , and will thus answer every particular . Concerning my presumption , it is easier to reach at a high bough then to stoop to a low straw ; it is glorious to be busied in honorable designs ; and he is made famous in the attempt , though he faile in the conquest : It is a worthy resolution

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F

there-

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Yours in the miſt of fear.

To his vertuous and dearly beloved, M. A.

True love is not tied to outward beauty.

Sweet Heart :

WHat a strange countermand did you send me, not to visit you, because your late sickness had cast a defiance in beauties face, as if my liking depended on outward shews? Why good Soule? when reason had won the field of passion, I loved a vertuous *Cassandra*, not a fair *Hellen*; a noble spirit, not an outward feature; a constant resolution, not a fading comeliness; and yet I am perswaded no disaster whatsoever can have power to controul thy beauty or bounty, only time excepted, which must weare us out with death, and then shall our soules welcome a perpetuity: therefore I pray thee let me come, if it be but to shew my selfe a man, a lover of vertue, and main-
tainer of all constant and honest resolutions.

Yours ever resolved

To the Mistris of his thoughts, F. D.

Love is afraid to lose his Contentment.

My Love and life :

I Hope it is not come to that passe, that you can be contented to dispute the matter with discretion, as though it lay in your choice, which way to travell to the palace of felicity; as though wisdom had taught you to wipe away the forces of fancy, with a commanding hand, as though some divine inspiration had forewarned you of ensuing mishaps: For sure no objection can now be made, which long since received not a foile in the encounter; therefore I pray you (if my misfortunes be so bad, that I must revive your memory) go to that Grove where we called the Trees to witness, and sware by the pleasant shade, that nothing but the fruit of enjoying one another, should coole the fires of love, and there recount the words we counterchanged, the vows we contracted, the tears we drunk up from each others faces. But I can say no more, un-

lesse I shall be inforced to exclaim : I am unworthy to live, because my dearest life supposeth me unworthy to love, or be beloved ; which if it be but in shew , as you break the seals of these Letters , you break the strings of my heart.

Yours dying in constancy.

To his best Beloved , and more then much respected, Mrs. G. Z.

A little jealousie seasoneth true love.

Worthily Beloved :

THese pretty crosses and contradictions make love the sweeter, and strengthen fancy the more, when the vaile of jealousie is taken away , and an honest heart hath taught a strong arme the cunning to turn aside all obstacles of our delight : yet believe me, it was a miserable temptation, for you to swear my falshood, and lay the weight of disloyalty on the brest of an honest man ; especially to raise your suspicion from so unworthy a person, and degenerating a cause, when there was no motive

motive to startle my resolutions, nor thought to disparage your worth. Say the course of the Dance brought me with her to a turning change, and that afterward I commended her graces and comeliness, I could do no less out of courtship and good manners; but to say that either proceeded from amorous passion, is to be over passionate and unwarrantable by reason, or laws of love. Besides, some tongues have traduced her for a Wanton; and then is beauty as ill bestowed, as valour in a prophane swaggerer; so that me thinks you should rather have challenged any other for depraving me in this kind, then been stird your selfe to raise a greater disease. But I hope you are now satisfied, as no such misprision shall ever endanger the unity of our loves again.

Yours fearfully loving.

To her tryed and trusty friend,

Necessity causeth importunity.

Worthy Sir :

HAVING relied on your noble promises, and knowing my selfe on a sure and honest ground, concerning the secrets of my discontents, I rested some way satisfi'd in the expectation of the performance, and thought my selfe happy in this unhappiness, that I had fallen into the hands of so noble a Gentleman: so that if there were no more in it, then love and assurance of your selfe, I would have been silent, till your own leasure had served you rightly to consider me. But necessities knocking so hard and so fast, and conspiring with the suddainness of time against my patience and quiet, I am enforced to overpasse all limits, and step to an earnest importunity, to request both your confidence of my honesty in this businesse, and suppliment to keep me out of the hand of misery and despaire. This humanity challenges at your hand, this occasion compels
let

leth me to request : so that if I find you no lesse then I hope , nor no worse then I deserve , we shall both be pleased ; and I have cause to proclaim your worth even to my best friends ; and thus I have cast my selfe down into the scale of equal consideration, take up then an upright hand, and paize me accordingly ; but withall, I pray you let no indirect strength turn the beam aside. For I have ever loved you truly, and therefore relie on your friendship at this time absolutely.

Not living without you.

To her newly displeased Friend, M. I.

Jealousie should not be shown without cause.

Good Sir :

HOW commeth it to passe , that you draw my love and modesty in question, for my civill entertainment of a Gentleman last night, as though I could do lesse , then afford him a salutation , and performed too much in continuing our morall discourse ? believe me , I am not ignorant,

ignorant, that love is seasoned with a little jealousy, but being out of *Italie*, grow proud of *Englands* liberty, where the practises of humanity teach us the true use of conversation: So that an uncorrupted heart is Canon-prooffe against a slanderous tongue, but a wanton mind will turn vertuous sentences to lasciviousness: if then you were well persuaded of my vertue, to put all out of doubt, there passed not one word, which a Divine might not have been partaker of; otherwise be resolved, that if I had not been limited with the bands of respecting you, I would have been tied to the conditions concerning my selfe, and neither have given eare to immodest parly, nor way to any undecencies; and so if you are satisfied, I am pleased: But from henceforth be more confident of my worth, and lesse suspicious of my loyalty.

Yours, if you wrong her not.

To

To her best resolved Friend, F. G.

The difference between a willing and compelled absence.

My true and worthy Friend :

YOur late discourse concerning absence and jealousy, as if they were rather inflamers, then extinguishers of love, hath almost startled my resolutions concerning the negative : that is, whereas I held an opinion that jealousy and absence were rather deficiencies in themselves, and meerly obstacles to continuing kindness ; I am now perswaded, they may so march in the Army of passions, as to have the Vanguard in the encounter of affection : but withall, I have learned so much cunning in morality, as thus to distinguish between their abuses : Concerning absence, there is a difference in that which is constrained, and that which is voluntary. For there may be honourable causes of the one, when the other at (the best) is but an untoward triall of one another, as imploiment in martiall affairs, legation

on to Forrain Princes , travell to enrich experience, necessity of traffick, and such like ; to all which no worthy party beloved, but will afford a helping hand, and admit of hope of return , patience to endure , and wisdom to hearken after his endeavours ; but voluntary absence , if it could be vailed under the adulterate shew of trials, hath so many ill companions, that it can neither do well it selfe , nor bring them to any good order : For commonly it is accompanied with carelesse-nesse, slackness in observation, suspition, fear of idle humours, unkindness, and at last meets with utter oblivion, with divers of that sort ; and what shall the party beloved conceit , if the first demand reasons of his departure, and after find a breach of vows for his return ? so that alleadge what Philosophicall inference you may, and guild it over with the imposturing Art of Oratory : I absolutely conclude, that however pleasure is the stronger in his rarity ; love, true, honest, and perfect love is no way beholding to a wilfull absence.

sence. Touching jealousie, I confesse I have read of a holy-day in hell, when love and jealousie were married together; but however they feasted for that day, I am sure, all the time after they were turmoyled with despight: For except a great discretion overmaster suspition, fear, rage, madness, watchings, disquiet, abstaining from meat and rest, torment of mind, and untoward distractions accompany us, especially if there be the least cause given of the breach of vows. O then! love proves like a beautifull glasse, which once broken can never be cemented again; yet I confesse, there may be a civill emulation concerning a Rivals worthiness, and honest fear to hazard the thing unobtained; but once wived and contracted unseperable, there can be no man jealous, but upon his wives disloyalty; and she that gives the occasion, must adventure her honour: I will not therefore have the married man jealous, and would tie the amorous Suiter within certain bounds, lest by transcending, he transhape his own discretion

discretion into fury, and quarrellsome humours, of which a well disposed Gentlewoman would, nor should be any way guilty; and so till I hear further, I leave what you have heard to a favourable construction.

Yours wheresoever

To the worthy and noble, L. B.

Friendship is afraid to be forgotten, and so pleadeth in her own behalfe.

My best Lady:

I Would not now prove recreant to my former constancy, considering I have not only plaid the wanton with affliction, but have had you a looker on to my great encouragement; yet some unkind fear begins now to stagger my resolution, because I find a falling away amongst your selves, like loose earth from a main bank, and am resolved that this banishment will utterly disjoint the frame of our long acquaintance, and at last pull in pieces the bands of true friendship; else how can it be, that I am unworthy the remembrance

brance? and who would have thought I should so long have passed unregarded? but this is the corruption of greatness, either you think to make us slaves by observation, or dare not be your selves vertuous, for fear of combersomness: as for friendship, kindness, love, faith, loyalty, respect, and generous dispositions; they are but voyces and smoak, and as you all use the same, like *Tantalus* Apples, which once touched, turn into Cinders, and yet hang with glorious shews to the eye: But will you serve me so indeed? and as the Devill seduced the woman, the woman enticed the man, the man offended his Maker; run arm in arm in the race of contempt, and at last triumph in my dejection? Why, do a Gods name; and then shall you see me smile in distreis, and reach at the help of all helps out of heaven it selfe; yet for all this, I pray you do not mistake me, but rather impure all to the distraction of my own fears, then your defects; for I have ever loved your worth, and while I live, will think you worthy

worthy to be beloved; so that if amongst your other vertues, you can pardon this unfavouriness, I shall receive a new life, and with a further chearfulness present my duty once again unto you.

Yours, if you prove Worthy.

To his much esteemed, Mrs. P.

A good Wife commended and compared to a
Ship at Sea.

Mistris:

ME thinks I behold you like a goodly Ship at Sea; so that I which am a stander on the shore, must needs be afraid, when I consider the danger of boysterous winds and raging billows, the perill of the shelves and sands, the terroure of rocks and shores, the inconveniences of harbours and long voyages, and the hazard of encounters with Pirats and men of War: Yet again, when I remember the excellent workmanship in your contriving, the strength of your building, the comeliness of your raising up, the delicacy of your trimming

trimming, and above all, the cunning and experience of your Pilot and Steersman, I am somewhat pacified, and had rather expose you to the glory of famous voyages, then see you lie still in safe harbour, where time and many inconveniencies shall wear out your keele, and obscure your beauty: therefore go forth a Gods name, and let me see you under saile: For the wisest of men hath compared a good Wife to a Ship at Sea, which bringeth her food from a far; and so I make no doubt you will esteem your selfe, and not adventure abroad without care, order, and good provision. In which hope, I leave you to the fortune of the World, and send my good wishes after you, to fill your sails with the best wind, and bring you home again with the fulness of prosperity.

Yours, and Vertues.

G

To

To her loving Neece, G. B.

No Oaths to be believed before Marriage.

My dearest Love :

THere hath passed and over-passed a rumour of the yong Counts affecting you, wherein love hath dealt like himself, and chained him to certain streights of passion; so that by voluntary Oath he hath protested conditionall Marriage, if you please to afford him a primordially satisfaction; wherein love may sympathize between you I know not, but meerly out of honest and honorable policy, go into the open channell, rather then come near the banks of *Nylus*, where Crocodiles may deceive you with tears; and of all other things, let no man boast of dividing you, till you yield him possession of all together, and this is a caution even amongst Wantons, not to marry with him to whom dotage or misfortune hath prostituted them. For what hope is there but a following eternall jealousy? and when a breach

breach is so made, a continuall roaring and thundering of whole vollies of checks, rants, and opprobrious tearms of Whore, Strumpet, filth: What had I, but another might have gotten? and what know I, but thou art still a broken glasse, never to be cemented again? Therefore sweet Neece, stand upon a strong guard of circumspection, and do not expose the certainty of your honorable merit and high attracting worthiness, to the uncertainty of deceiveable promises: I care not, though I tearm them fully resolved oaths. For one way they are yet in the pleasure of the first maker; another way, in the danger of better resolved conceit, when the heat of wantoness is reclaimed, and some new displeasure shall open a gap of both your over-sights: But I hope I need not ambiguously handle the cause of your vertue, and modest inclination; considering you have many times cast a defiance in the face of temptation; and will now surely, when you are to be tried pure Gold indeed, not make it adulterate by

ambitious desires, or foolish credulity.

Yours, in prevailing truth.

To her dearest Husband.

Men must submit to their fortune.

My only life :

May not write at large, nor one word but what another oversees ; therefore I pray you consider of me and your Children, and however your vertue fill your heart with constancy ; yet remember, that in all Ages, and with all persons, vertue doth not thrive alike, nor must a man proclaim all he knows, or divulge what he thinks ; so that there is no remedy for your enlargement, but a patient enduring, a politick silence, an humble submission, and plausible casting your selfe and cause into the lap of the Queens favour, and under the shadow of that great Lords mantle. No more ; neither I dare, nor must ; but that I am, and will be,

Your ever loving wife indistresse.

To her wilfull and seduced Friend, M. G.

Love findeth fault with inconstancy and following a Strumpet.

Unkind, and ill advised :

TO what purpose have you made me believe, that you never spake sentence, but love joyned the words ; never breathed vow , but verue instructed the heart ; never performed action, but my worth was the *magnes* to draw you into industry ; and yet you can be contented to wipe away all with the slight hand of carelessness, and to forsake me without a cause ; yea, to despight me the more, to abandon a faithfull and true friend, for the beastly shew and love of a Strumpet, whose eyes sparkle with deceit, and very smiles are more dangerous then Crocodiles tears, which commonly weep over such they mean to destroy. O God ! that thou either hadst discovered this falshood before, whereby I might have taken the way of better assurance, and conformable ho-

neſty ; or wilt thou yet defend the poor Troops of chaſtity, againſt the mighty Armies of incontinency and wantonneſſe ? then ſhould this Wanton know, what it were to betray modeſty into the hands of filthy unconfancy, and to bring ſimplicity into the bondage of paſſion and affection. But I prethee let me diſpute with thee a little : Have I not ſeen thee laugh a fellow to ſcorn, as a Buffoon, or Jeſter, for wearing great guilt Rings full of coloured glaſſes, garded cloaths, capons feathers, and a ridiculous aſpect ? and what is a Strumpet, but ſutable in every thing ? have I not read of a foole, that was led like an Oxe to the ſlaughter, and went in the ſhutting of the Evening into the houſe of a Strumpet ? have I not heard thee tell the Tale of a Paſſenger, who comming over a dangerous water upon a narrow bridge, being drunk, and returning the next day to ſee what adventure he had eſcaped, died with the apprehenſion ? and what is a Whores converſation, but a ſuddain perrill overpaſſed with fear and trembling ?

trembling? and so in infinite particulars; whereby it cannot chuse, but either you are insensible of good, or desperate of all bad; otherwise you would not come within the reach of heavens vengeance, and vertues curses; I mean my own poor cries and tears, which if they once should be vented with bitterness of my soule, believe it, they would prevaile with the God of mercy, to draw thee and thy perfidiousnesse into the house of vengeance, for thy cruelty and mischievous abusing so constant and innocent a friend.

Your poor abused Friend.

To her unkind Friend, R. S.

Against deniall of trifles amongst friends, and fear of combersomness.

Sir :

I Perceive by my selfe, that poor and unfortunate persons may well be resembled to threatening tempests, from whose violence every man seeketh a present shelter; else would one never have been so dis-

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curtuous,

curtuous, as to have denied me a small request, or continued your despight, in abandoning my company, for fear of cumberfomnesse, or importuning you to more, then your own free-will should condescend unto: Is this the law of friendship? or what do you imagine can be the end of such unkindness? who taught you such Rules? or can humanity think well of such perversness? well, I am a woman, and therefore will be so far from immodesty, that I will impute it to my ill deserving, not your bad disposition: but if I were a man, however I disclaim quarrels, I would make this a matter of complaint, wherein if your wit did not wind you out, by the scrue of sufficient excuse, it should surely turn to displeasure, and cause other malign circumstances to threaten you further. Therefore from henceforth I will be so far from loving you, that I will hate my selfe, for deceiving my kind heart in affecting so unkind a friend. And thus I bid you farewell; yea, to fare as well as I did, in the want of that I write for, and
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the discomfort I endured, to think how ill I had bestowed my first liking.

Yours, if you will have it so.

To her unkind Husband.

Against the breach of Wedlock in a man.

wretched and miserable man :

HOW darest thou lift up thy Adulterate eyes to Heaven, and behold the chrySTALLINE Firmament, wherein that everlasting Law-giver sits in Triumph against the day of vengeance, to judge such perseverant Delinquents as thy selfe? or dost thou imagine, that those strict duties (commanded from the beginning) were but matters of policy? or that position of man and wife, being one flesh, was meerly breath and exhalation? surely it must needs be so with Atheists and prophane livers; and I am afraid to the hereafter horror of thy soule, that thou wilt tumble into the pit of burning lasciviousness; from whence it is easier to be kept from falling, then once fallen, to recover out.

out. 'But O fool! look again with brighter eyes, and read with more judicious understanding; the lips of a Whore are as sweet as hony to the taste of fooles, but in her heart is the sting of Scorpions, yea, the poyson of Aspes lies under her lips; and wilt thou then adventure the stinging, when there is no Cataplasme for the soar? wilt thou forget the honest wife of thy youth, for a disloyall and impudent stranger? wilt thou despise thy children, resembling olive branches about thy Table, being buds of the blessings promised a good man, for Bastards plants, which the hand of Divine Justice will soon root out? wilt thou run into the sinke of lustfull confusion, that maiest trace the fair walks of contentment with chaste embracings? O do not so I charge thee! nay, by the contracts to our first vowes, I conjure thee, return to the pleasant springs of our amity; and I will wash thee clean again, and make thee sweet, with tears and kisses of a loving wife.

Your true wife, in your untruth,

To

To his perjured and lascivious wife.

Against whoredome in the woman.

Thou forsworn wretch :

TO what end hast thou prostituted thy selfe to filthiness, and abandoned the strong and certain supportation of grace, for the momentary ticklings of pleasure ; so that by this filthy dashing of lusts loathsome chariots, we are all bemired, deformed, and made odious to the world ; thy selfe art branded for a Strumpet, and in the best excuse but a broken glasse, never to be set together again. I am made a by-word and a pointing-stock ; not that the disloyalty of a Whore can overthrow the reputation of a vertuous and honest man ; but because corrupted times have taught men a mischievous lesson of taunts and contemptuous scornings ; thy children appear not but with suspicious faces ; and I dare not look upon them for fear some harsh news should whisper in mine eare their bastardy ; our friends and acquaintance

tance dare not meet without murmuring; and me thinks I hear them say, what shall we do in the house of shame, and eat at the table of incontinency? O that thou hadst remembred *Judah* against *Thamar*! that she should be burnt for playing the whore, and yet a Widdow, and before the Law: But when the Jewes were reduced to obedience, adultery was punished with death. But me thinks I hear the Devill to prompt thee, that they which dare adventure their soules, dare hazard their lives; and now it is not so strict as it was in the time of the Law: For Christ himselfe forgave the woman taken in adultery, and we live in a Commonwealth far from such extreimity. Is this your sophistry? take heed of couzening your own soule, and deceiving the trust which Christ hath reposed in thee, making thee thereby partaker of his precious blood, and thy own redemption. But how? neither to spill the one by casting it abroad with unclean and polluted hands; nor betray the other by conspiring with presumptuous

sumptuous sinners, to rebel against grace, repentance, and newnesse of life; wherein if thou dost not examine thy selfe, and prepare to better conformity, I need not breath out vengeance against thee, or seek a greater justice, then thy mischievous will, and unpenitent life shall pull upon thy disguised shamelesse face, and defiled mis-shapen soule.

Your Husband, if you do not divide him.

To her over suspicious Friend.

Excuse for keeping company, and going
to Court.

Good Sir :

Am not ignorant, how the Poets have invented a marriage between *Cupid* and *Jealousie*: and true love is many times seasoned, and made sweeter by pretty contradictions, and softly raised suspicion: but to be overvehement in accusation, and absolutely to conclude a negative by fond supposes, and cruell constructions, are beyond my reason, and your fair demeanor.

For

For, be it, I went to the play with my sister, I indured the mask, I danced the measures: I will not much stand upon the commendations of such customary practise: Yet was there any thing here worthy the traducing? or could a Gentlewoman do lesse, considering the circumstances and commanding majesty of the place? But you will object, that fancy now settled, and the minde contented with anothers controul: it was idley done to go at all. I could say so too; if a mothers well wishes, a sisters importunity, a solemn festi-
vall, a time of revels: and above all a presumption of your noble disposition and free hearted discretion, had not mustred themselves far stronger then my weak denials: wherwith at first I came so forward, that they wondred at my mortification, and sware it was a counterfeit retiring to a more dangerous businesse. Besides, I was not (as I take it) under any penalty of infringing your will? you not imposing such a task on me: nor would I be so absolute a slave, though the name of husband and
p wife

wife had linked us together with the Churches ceremonies. Bee therefore I pray you satisfied with my justifiable excuses, and believe it; I will rather forswear the hopes of marriage, and the glory of costly ornaments, before I will leave you again in such an hell of affrighting jealousy.

Yours, so you be resolved.

To her jealous Friend.

Excuse for taking shelter in a showre of Raine,
with a strange Gentleman.

Suspicious Sir :

I Perceive that ignorance is many times a Mistresse of quietness, and too much learning layeth the heart open to lewd example, and idle instances. Thus because you have read of the hunting which *Dido* prepared for *Aneas*, and that opportunity, and a strange accident brought them to an amorous encounter in that solitary Cave (whither they retired) to avoyd the perill of the storm; therefore must I be suspected, for that at the last hunting I
met

met with *S. G.* in the thicket, and not able then to indure the showre, mounted up into the stand: If there were no other excuse then necessity, and the accidentall proffer of civil curtesie, me thinks it might carry credit with understanding: but lest I cannot handsomly gather together my forces to satisfie you, I will tell you true: There came both my brother, and his man, to prevent any overflowings of a wanton tongue, or idle conference: so that we are so far from any occasion of Loves encountering, that we were glad to shake our hats, and wring our cloaths for fear of catching cold: yet say, that the accident had prevented other company: hath the opinion of his worth so ill a ground in your thoughts, that you can so quickly cast it out from any sound rooting? Or am I such a truand in the schoole of modesty, that you stand in doubt of my loitering, or at least of my insufficiency, to prove an honest proficient? But I will answer for you, it is loves fault and not yours: and there can bee no good will
where

where many questions arise not to contrarieties: yea, sometimes to distastings, and fallings out: which if it be so, I am contented to offer my Taper at the alter of his deity, and hope to find you the faster hereafter, by letting me lose a little, and giving some small liberty to the fears of my losse, and proving counterfeit.

Yours in her very thoughts.

To his loving wife, B. G.

Excuse for tarrying too long from a Wife.

My only Beloved:

I Am now to deale with a woman, that can spread the mantle both of love and discretion: Of love, not to give way to any sinister and indirect conceit for my tarrying so long from you: Of discretion to apprehend the difficult passages, wherein Court-suters traverse their grounds, and are sometimes like a Ship under saile, ready to enter the Haven of their desires, driven far back by contrary gusts into the troublesome and turbulent Ocean of cross-

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ses and unexpected changes. Thus as you have often told me your selfe, are men sometime protracted, examined, promised, denied, and many times afronted with Competitors, whose particeans would gladly prefer their friends before a strangers: But for the giving rains to any extravagant and licentious corruption, either for incontinency, gaming, or pleasure, more then what the better sort of men may draw me along unto by the cords of conversation; do not believe it, though it should be reported; nor report it, though some untoward suspition may hasten you to believe in this kind: And thus relying on your wisdom, more then my own fortunes or good merit, I commend these civill excuses to your favourable construction, and commit that little, which the poor remainder of my discretion hath compassed, to your care and government.

Your Husband resolved.

To

To his loved loving wife, C. G.

Excuse for not dispatching of business.

My dearest and best beloved :

ALthough your unfavoury Letters are framed on the foundation of unkindness ; so that you seem to justify the advancing the pile of your grudges and repinings upon good occasions inforced ; yet I hope by that time I have filled your ears , and impressed your heart with honest excuses, you will quietly gather together the dispersed forces of your care and duty to a fright misreport and sinister understanding. First then concerning the money to be payd to your Cousin ; I was so far from receiving it then, that there is no hope ever to have it hereafter. Concerning the not accompanying your Brother in his suits , and attending with him in the Court , you know how unfavoury such a servitude is unto the freedome of my spirit, and how untoward he is in his spleenful wilfulness, otherwise I will ride,

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run,

run, or go, yea lacky by him to do him good; but to make my selfe servile upon every occasion, and wait on those daies, wherein no busines is determined, cannot stand with pollicy or discretion. Concerning the not having the things from the Mercer, whereby you think your selfe more then forgotten, yea forsaken and vilipended: I answer truely, there is but one you know, to the warmth of whose bosome I can repair, and he being out of town, I cannot presume on any other; so that forbearance being no quittance, you must be contented to attend a more thriving houre. Concerning the sending your son over, there is no hope of him in any besitting courses of a man. For all that he practiseth is meerly repugnant to vertue, and my willingness to see him do well; as for favouring martiall affairs, some uncivill and erroneous report hath afrighted him with painfull marches and watchings, hard lying, unpleasant fare, careless regard, (what hunger or sickness ever chance) and above all, slight entertainment.

ment, with suddainsteppings before him, through the favour of Letters, or Officers, of men inferiour to his supposes, and presumption of his own worth. Therefore I can do no more then speak to the Capt. and engage my selfe for his attendance, draw out extraordinary promises of respecting him, and encourage him what I may; but he being a back retirer, and pleading insufficiency of body, I have left it, without further vexation; however I could for your sake enforce my unwillingness; and considering his unsupportable humours, to set him on foot, to prevaile according to his own desires.

Your carefull Husband.

To her unkind Friend.

A request to forbear a dangerous Ladies company.

Good Sir :

HOWever these dangerous practises of yours may be at the best vailed over with excuse of trials, and as it were touchstones of my constancy; yet I pray you

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deale not with me, as some strange Physicians do with their Patients, who, because they find the body strong and well composed to some endurances, will therefore adde violent potions, and raging poisons to their receipts; and so peradventure to see you visited of friends, accustomed to civill conversation, courting of Ladies, and affording pleasant changes, as time and place requireth: I can passe over as things of course, and make my heart believe, there is no perill in such adventure, nor hazard of true love in circumstances; but to hear, that you daily converse with that fantastick Lady, whose eyes are nets to intrap wiser men, and whose hands have with the Spiders web woven twisted threds to tie the roving fancy to straiter admirations; concerning her beauty; of stronger and more wary men then your selfe; I cannot endure, nor will afford my opinion of you, so strong a presumption, that you can come away unsnared or uncorrupted with allurements. Therefore I humbly request
you,

you, if not for love, yet for pities sake, leave me not in this suspition, nor throw me so violently into the turbulent sea of jealousy. For I am a poor slender Bark, and built for shallow waters; no man of War, nor high decked Ship to endure all wind and weather. I am a slender reed placed in lower grounds to avoyd the boysterous puffs that assaile the highest mountains; no Cedar of *Lebanon* to advance my head against all menacing storms and tempests: I am a true hearted Lover, who can be contented with only one honest man, and have taught my soul a lesson of beliete, that you are master of your selfe, and a conqueror of affection; nay, a follower of truth, and good remembrance concerning our contracts and marriage. To what end then do you affright me with these indirect straglings abroad, and set my patience on the tenter-hooks of cruel expecting your return, and how you will reason the matter to pacifie this displeasure? Well, I pray you be a little more reposed, and take some sud-

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dain course to come and satisfie me better ; otherwise I will not believe, but you wish an alteration, and I must prepare for some pitfull, either change or distresse.

Yours, and yet displeased.

To the Honourable Lady, M.

A thankfulness for not believing a false report.

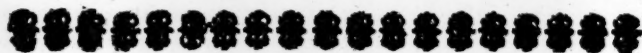
Most worthily honoured :

WHen David gave only care unto Zibas complaint, lame *Mephibosheth* was wronged, and halfe his Land was given to a Parasite ; which made *Solomon* more cautelous, and from his Fathers unjust proceeding in this kind, prevented the calumniation in himselfe ; and so admitting the Harlots face to face, decided the controversie for the living child : So that it cannot chuse but that you have thrived in searching the Scriptures, and made use of the same to your eternall comfort : For which I thank you ; and believe it, it was nobly done, both to send my accuser away without entertainment, and

and not condemn me for any triviall enforcement before you heard my justifications. Why (my best Lady) you know, and many better men then he have told you, that I am so far from wronging you with a falshood, that I have maintained your honour against any, as far as truth would give me leave; when (the time was) that you gave me cause to distast your unkindness; I would not permit another to whisper against your injustice: Nay more, when I was threatned for being a supporter of your disobedience, I plunged my selfe into a gulph of troubles, to keep you from falling into the danger: Therefore I pray you continue your own worthiness, and good opinion toward me. For however out of passion I may suspect my thriving in your estimation; believe it, out of judgement, and the true duty of love and friendship, I will not suffer any other to traduce you.

Yours only to be commanded.

Civill



Civill Letters.

To the worthiest of all my friends.

A Letter describing true friendship.

My other selfe :

YOU have commanded me to write, and I durst not but obey: nay, you have prescribed the method, and therefore I will not alter the maner; but make you believe I have apprehended your will, and would thus satisfie your desire. True friendship is an undissimuled consent of our affection towards one another, and a very transportation of two hearts into one body; so that two friends in a maner love with one minde, speake with one tongue, execute with one hand, live with one life, and sometimes die with one death. Amongst friends must be no contradiction, no disproportion of conditions, no dissimilitude in manners, nor talk of mine

mine and thine. Doth he sorrow? thou must mourn; doth he rejoyce? thou must not repine; doth he complain? thou must not accuse; doth he demand? thou must not deny; doth he want? thou must not murmur; doth he contrive? thou must practise; doth he desire? thou must not reprove. For though private thoughts are proper to our selves, yet the fortunes, goods, persons, and estate of friends are to remain in a pleasant community; upon this, some Philosophers have maintained, that one man can have but one friend, framing thus an argument, *A contrariis*. If there be danger in many enemies, by reason of the many and uncertain courses to revenge; there is trouble in many friends, by occasion of divisions in consent. According to the opinion of *Æschines*, there was no such griefe as to be divided from him we did love. For look what properties love ever contained, were in friendship maintained; and because love could not receive her estimation from untoward liberty to change; friendship hath

hath been denied her desires to alter. *Tully*, the light of Eloquence, had friendship in such account, that he preferd it before kindred, because in the dissolution of love, the name of a Kinsman remained, but in the privation of friendship all titles and goodness ended. If then with these properties you can bear with my imperfections, I with these conditions will tolerate your defects, and so shall this name of friendship passe and repasse reciprocally between us.

Tours unseparable.

To his highly esteemed.

A Letter of friendly Precepts.

worthy Sir :

WHereas you complain of my slowness in visiting you, and slackness in writing: concerning your selfe, I am determined to remain with the same faith and order I ever accustomed; and touching those latter motives, I will come as near your satisfaction as I can in this slender discovery. Understand me then, that my

my poor experience would open the mystery of this knowledge unto you; that fortune, which we so often prophanely remember, is no way to be overcome but with Vertue; that Vertue is never so well to be entertained, as in youth; that youth is but some speciall flower in a curious Garden, kept by extraordinary diligence, till an untimely blast perish the stalk, and impoverish the beauty; that beauty is like a white wall curiously trimmed, which if an envious hand do besprinkle with a few unclean drops, a present alteration daunterh the company; that company is like a strange net catching all fish, unlesse they slip into some unknown nooks, or avoyd the danger by other cunning; that cunning is like holding the Woolfe by the eare, which if you wrest hard, you are bitten; if you let go, you are in perrill of life; that life is like a strong timbred tree, which at the Masters appointment is cut down in a small time; that time is resembled to sweet smelling flowers, which must be stird to please the sense,

fenſe, and ſtilled to heale the body, or elſe they will be fair to the eye, and as unprofitable as ill diſpoſed friends; that friends are like childrens ſports, who for a new Counter reſuſe an old Angell, and to go to a ſtrange Nurſe, forſake the neareſt kindred; and that kindred are like *Tantalus* Apples, which keep their ſhew till they be touched; but once preſſed crumble to powder. Theſe be principles to my griefe experienced, and may without offence be to others good embraced; not that I go about to draw you into ſuſpition; but becauſe I would preſerve your remembrance toward me, whereby I muſt needs be ſatisfied, if you be not diſpleaſed.

Yours as I have profeſſed.

To his eſteemed friend, C. N.

[The properties of true friendſhip.

Sir :

HAd not our friendſhip received reciprocal ſtrength from true vertue, and worthy converſation; I could ſlightly have

have passed over your last deniall of trifles, and quietly gathered the rains of discretion to restrain the forwardness of impudency or cumberfomeness; but when I remembred our combination, and with what conditions we contracted a league, especially the nature and property of friendship, me thought there was a pleasure to name you so, and a comfort to find you so; therefore from henceforth let us understand one another better; either firmly to maintain the cause of kindnesse, or lightly to leave it under the colours of courtesie. For the best Philosophers have chained love and friendship with equall goodness; so that as love can endure no competition, friendship must abide no community; as love can have but one favourit, friendship should admit but of one companion; as love pardoneth, friendship forbeareth; as love commandeth all, friendship is denied nothing; as love entreth when he list, friendship doth so uncontrouled; as love triumpheth over the heart and affection, friendship raigneth

raigneth over body and goods; no excuses, no drawings back, no contracted brow, no delaies, no hiding the head, no daintiness, or absurd ceremonies, but a happy Sympathy to strengthen goodwill, and an absolute power to command, and readiness to obey one another. If then with these conditions, you can be contented to march arm in arm to the house of contentment, I am yours, as you mine; and both to shew the world an example of happy imitation, *Yours indissoluble.*

To his assured friend, F. L.

The properties of true friendship.

Sir :

TO crave pardon were to submit, and more then you look for; obstinately to offend were injurious to you, and not befitting a Gentleman. To avoid therefore the one, and to eschew the other; for not writing, imagine want of skill; for not comming, suppose my businesse to hinder me; for not sending, think I could not conveniently;

conveniently: thus you see I am willing to be excused, where I am loth to be excused; and considering I love you better then other men, I would not distast you if it were possible; especially because I have tyed my selfe to true observation, as you have professed a happy contract of kindness. In hope, or rather assurance hereof, I pray you present my service to that lovely party, whom I compared at our last meeting to a rich Diamond orderly inamelled, and extraordinarily set out to the best grace; and all to shew the cunning of the workman: so that if my fortune could but conduce me to the way of entertainment, it would sure exceed the worlds happiness, and I durst search the whole earth for *Æsculapius* bones to restore her eyes; but if you play the truant with me to shew her this Letter, give me leave to be my own Interpreter, and let not your excellent wits triumph over my simplicity.

Ever your own.

To his assured Friend, G. M.

Deniall of trifles, and presumption of anothers weakness, maketh a breach in friendship.

Sir :

I Would not willingly have our friendship receive any maim, lest my wounds grow festred for want of a skilfull Chyrurgion ; considering I have loved you above all men, and found you many wayes true and free hearted ; yet I am afraid we do both faile in judgement and true use of conversation. For you see, that that hand which hath, or should cover my nakedness, hath not only left me bare, and subject to cold : but even turned the worst side to the view and derision of passengers ; insomuch that your last deniall of trifles, and glorious liberty of deceiveable speeches to please your selfe, hath made me contemptible to servile creatures, and debarred my desires, when I determined but a small satisfaction, which with a little supplement had had a free passage. But now I see my selfe
more

more miserable for the want of Vertue, then want of mony; therefore I am resolved to be reposed; and if you think me worth the keeping, I pray you hereafter forbear those disloyal and palpable discoveries, undecent contradictions, unkind denials, and triviall excuses: For a small help will stay a fainting man, when a strong arm cannot lift him up, that is faine flat on the ground. I urge not this, to draw you to any inconveniences concerning your purse, but to keep us both upright touching our credits, and so with a meer disturbed hand, and troubled mind, I bid you farewell; but I am resolved to endure no further unsavoury jests against me, for any hopes of worldly helps.

Yours, as I have cause.

To his Honorable Friend, Sir G. S.

Discontinuance and unkindness loseth friends
in the end.

worthy Sir:

HAd not my life received heat from
the Sun of your favours, and as I may
I say,

say, from the first influence, wherewith that Noble Lord so graciously beheld me, I might quietly go forward without once looking back to see, wherefore I am despised, and why, without offending, debarred from the same. But because I must and will acknowledge it, and in a maner confesse my selfe all darknes without it, yea ready to be plunged into every durty bog and irrecoverable danger: I humbly beseech you therefore, either to extend a gracious hand to stay a fainting soule from sinking, or give me leave to blame my misfortune, that hath thus subjected me to the violence of so dangerous displeasure; whereby if you be not the more noble, discontinuance shall make me worse, then water spilt out of a Vessel never to be taken up again. For what a terror is this? nay, how unexcusable, for my selfe to have you in town, and I not to visit you, or so much as once to be thought upon? yet it may be, this eternall horror of gentle minds (shame and wants) have only stirred up jealousie to afflict me
with-

without a cause ; considering you will be still your selfe, and love me for being honest , and endeavouring to make vertue proud, that poverty cannot abase her : In which hope I send you my true and faithfull heart, however I remain most miserable in the fear of your losse.

Yours in true friendship.

To his Honourable Friend, Sir T. B.

Ingratitude is not besitting a Gentleman.

worthy Sir :

IN those times, when *Dracon* the Tyrant of the East, advanced himselfe to the height of Sovereignty, ingratitude and injustice were punished with death ; so that if he underwent the imputation of cruelty, it was not for satiating a bloud-thirsty minde, but revenging the neglect of his Statutes : now if examples endure longer then precepts, had not we need in these corrupt times to stand on a guard of circumspection, not to vilipend vertue lesse then the Heathen, nor practise impi-

ety worse then idolaters ; and if they thought ingratitude worthy of death ; I hope we shall (at least) suppose it unfitting a Gentleman. Wherefore without further complement , or larger circumstances for those many favours, wherewith your plentiful hand hath even laden me ; I open the exchequer of the poor, and thank you with a publick acknowledgement of the same. Yet give me leave (considering mischances are multiplied upon me) to resemble my selfe to a man tumbling down a stairs , who never leaves falling till he come to the bottome. And concerning your last promise unperformed , how can I be compared better then to a man lying faint and wounded on the ground , whom some courteous hand seemeth to advance , but lifting him up halfe way , letteth go his hold , and so he falleth back again to his forer hurt ? therefore , good Sir , either give my hope fuller wings , that it may take a higher flight of security, or let me die at once, to avoid an everliving misery :
and

and this I urge the rather, because in cases of untoward distresse, there is curesie in quick dispatch; as in the benefits of friendship there is a double pleasure in the timeliness, and orderly disposing of favour. Now my request is, if any ungentle hand hath cast durt into the pure stream of your love: O let it not so remain! but either cleanse it your selfe, or give me leave to pull it out, what danger soever I incur; and if my fortune be so malignant, that a slavish report hath echoed against my peace: O let me know the particulars, and answer for my selfe accordingly. And thus assuring my selfe, that I shall fall into the hands of judgement, with quick apprehension, I leave all to favourable construction, and commit you to his hands, who can advance you to the height of your desire, and merit of your worth.

Post scriptum,

Gratia ab officio, quod mora tardat abest.

Your thankfull friend.

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To

To his much esteemed Friend, C.G.

A man out of good manners must answer Letters, however they prove unfavoury in the acceptation.

Sir :

I Am sorry that my Letters were either unfavoury for the matter, or tedious for the length, considering that out of the Rules of civility I was to answer yours, and the necessity of my business to importune further, then you thought good manners. But such is the misery of wants, and poor men are resembled to ruinous wals, which every man shunneth for fear of falling upon them, otherwise I could excuse my selfe many waies. First, to avoid idleness, wherein the *Persians* were so observant, that they would rather whittle sticks, or rip the seams of their coat, and sew them up again. Secondly, to eschew ingratitude, which is a vice unbecfitting a generous minde of all-other. Next, to exercise my understanding, for to write to so delicate

delicate a judgement, and apprehensive a wit, craveth study and a carefull foresight; then to better my knowledge: For if I do well, your commendation can confirm me; if I fall into errours, your wisdom can reform and restrain me. Fifthly, to make you believe there is some good thing in me allowable and justifiable, and therefore worthy of a small regard, as noble Sir *Philip Sydney* was wont to say; Let us love him for one good quality, for a great many have none at all, and no man hath all. Lastly, to know what to trust unto; for to hope for a thing which cometh not, and to love them that care not for us, be two of the living deaths in this world. Therefore, *Good Sir*, let me not plead in vain, that plead so truly, and urge these reasons, rather to know how your love shall be enlarged, then my vain-glory published; and if you please to second my enterprize, I shall with a further chearfulness proceed in my business; if not, as good fall at first, and all at once, as live in expectation of more mischief, and
greater

greater troubles. Thus I bid you farewel,
and to fare better then I can fare, unlesse
you wish me well.

Yours, as a lover of vertue.

To his well advised friend, Mrs. H.

A friend desireth a Gentlewoman to unite the inward vertues of the mind to outward loveliness.

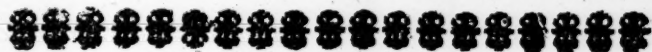
Good Mistress:

OBedience is better then sacrifice, and therefore do I send you these triviall Letters according to your command imposed, requesting you not to be too quick in apprehending any thing amiss, nor stupid in not conceiving what belongs to your portion: For I protest, I mean to say nothing to draw your worthiness in question; nor will leave out any thing which may manifest my good opinion of you. I then must begin with a certain custome of the Schoolmasters in *Lacedemon*, who at the first admittance of their scholers, brought them a glasse to look in: If they were fair
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and comely, they then advised them to take heed that the inward vertues answered the outward loveliness; otherwise they might resemble painted sheaths covering only wooden swords, so that true beauty and handsomnesse consisted in noble parts, not in outward feature. If they were mis-shapen, or outwardly deformed, to endeavour for the adoration of the minde, the light of Understanding and the load-starre of Wisdome, whereby they should see no man except against the first shape: and here may man overpasse the imperfections of nature, by extolling the conditions of nurture. Now I hope I shall not need to apply this to your selfe, because I am assured you look in a Glasse every day; and although you do not with *Narcissus* doat on your own forma; yet you cannot chuse but be thankfull to nature for so extraordinary benefits conferred: and withall, remember what a happinesse will make you perfect in this world, if you unite such inward graces, as begin already to take you
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by the hand, to pace out the measures of worth and modesty. Go on therefore, go on, that I may live to say, yonder goes the wonder of time, and the true example of nobleness and beauty. But I dare not enlarge my wishes, lest I fall into an extasie, and from giving good counsell to others, crosse mine own judgement for not doing as I should my selfe: yet I swear, if my fortune were worthy the name of a fortune, I durst triumph amongst other masters of earthly contentments, that you think me of deserving to be commanded by you, and put me in the Catalogue of your chiefeest friends. The businesse you inserted shall be dispatched, and the next Letters discover, what I think of the choice of a Husband, and to what conditions I would tie man and wife, living in a generous liberty.

Yours well advised.



Household Letters.

To his dearly beloved friend, M. T.

A Gentleman must take heed how he settles himselfe in the Country as a Farmer.

Good Sir :

I Well perceive by your worthy disposition, that oblivion cannot get the mastery of vertue in judicious and honest friends. For however we are remote in body, you have justified your remembrance toward me, yea continued a good opinion, and strengthened it with a conceit of my understanding somewhat; concerning your country life, 'tis so, that something must now be said, drawing near to satisfaction, but especially to discharge the duty of a friend, and faithfull well-willer. Believe it then, that in divers persons a Country life neighboureth contemplation and quietness, according as
we

we adapt our selves to the same. For a Gentleman of any reasonable estate, desiring to free himselfe of City vanities, continuall resort, extraordinary expences, superfluous diet, curiosity of apparell, and alluring temptation, may so seat himselfe and persecute his passion, as to meet with profit and repousedness in the Country; but then his resolution must be, not for any occasion to overpasse the limits of his intended expences; because, if he once step into the vain-glorious reputation of a House-keeper, a giver of alms, and desire of salutations from russet coats; his very Hall will eat up his Parlor, and he shalbe drawn in to spend more at a Christmase, then his upper Chamber in the City did in a twelvemonth. But for a free spirit, and a liver only upon a stock, to be emboldned with the hope of commodity, and bettering his estate by a husbandly pains-taking, is as far from expectation, as to feed a Hunting-horse on the Commons, and yet presume to run with him for the best game. For he that must say

to his servants, go, and to his men, do this, must be a Centurian, who lives upon an annuall entrade; but he that is a Vine-dresser, must labour and take pains himselfe, yea have both art and discretion to manage his affaires, that when he sees a barren fig-tree, he may not in a rage go & cut it down, or stock it up, but prune it, dung it, dig the earth about it, and make tryall of another year. Besides, for a Gentleman of worth, to live in any Town in suspicion of a decaied estate, or necessity to increase himselfe by industry; especially where they do but seem better men of Eminence, is, as if a man should go from his understanding friends, who out of civility would neither disesteem him, nor reveale his secrets; and proclaim the same in publick, exposing himselfe so to derision. For believe it, however the Country man may bid you good morrow, and stubbornly bend his knee, his heart is full within, and at home he cares not what he murmures against you; except you are in office to controwle him, as a
Justice

Justice of Peace ; or in ability to pleasure him, as Lord of the Mannor ; or in credit to terrifie him, as some Officer at Court ; or in estimation to master him , as some Noble mans man or other , especially a Privy Counsellours. Besides, the servants will loyter, the Bayliffe will sooth you up with flattery to deceive you , the Cattell will famish or diminish, the Plough will go untoward , the whole Family live in confusion , and the best by-word shall be for you , a poor Gentleman Farmer. All which considered , I could bee contented to see you here again, where you may eat meat with the best, and sort out your pleasures at as easie a rate as you list.

Your plain and true friend.

To his loving and long expected friend.

If a Gentleman will be a Farmer , it is the best to obtain the principall houle : or the credit of the highest place in the Town.

Good Sir :

I Would not have you play with me as the Jews did with *Jeremy* about their going

going into *Egypt*, asking his opinion, and swearing a conformity, till his resolution was contrary to their own minds, and so they retracted, scorning the Prophets advice: thus it may be you expect at my hands to jump with your desires, and please you by way of soothing, and applaud your pretences: surely I only cast but a doubt, and therefore will thus plainly tell you my opinion. The house and Farme you have taken, as I understand, is the Mannor house, and having many Tenants, you have as many privileges by their serviceable tenure. Here questionlesse you did very well: for by this occasion you shall keep the stubborn man in awe, and confirme the well disposed with security: besides, whereas peradventure you cannot take pains your self, or attend the Plough in person; the principall point of husbandry, and trick to win the game for a mean estate: you shall be sure that the very best husbands will overlook your grounds for you, as glad to spie a fault in them, or come with a tale to

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pleasure

pleasure you, even with offering his service to amend it himselfe for you. But withall, is not the house of too great receipt; costly to furnish, chargeable to repaire, dangerous to keep, and drawing on extraordinary expences even for fewell and maintenance? besides, is there not a certaine expectation of extraordinary house-keeping, and entertaining of passengers? Wherein to proceed, it will drink up the profit of the Farme like a Sponge; wherein to draw back, will drown your reputation in vilipending. This is that I would say unto you, so that if you meet with discretion, and judgement in so intricate a businesse; surely I must applaud your choice for taking the Mannor house; but if you chance upon jollity, or vain-glory, determining to thrive, you will take as wrong a course in being a Farmer, as I have done in advising you against your minde, and desires.

Yours with good wishes.

To his well advised friend, S. G.

Concerning the building and ordering a house,
with retaining of Servants.

Sir :

When I opened your last letter, and over-viewed the sentences divided into interrogatories, I was almost affrighted, as if there had been a citation sent for me: but after I considered the particulars, and saw they were only household advertisements, or if you will, husbandly questions, for the better settling a man in the possession of contentment: I cheered my selfe, and thought it good manners thus to answer them; wherein if I pay you in your owne coine, and not once go to look in the treasure house of Oratory for any Rhetoricall amplification, remember the justness of my cause, and the low flight of my subject. But to the purpose: whereas you demand, how you should build your house? I answer thus; that though former times esteemed it bet-

ter to have a house too little for a day, then too big for a whole yeare, and cared for no conveniency of lodgings, so the hall and kitchen were big enough to dresse meat, and entertain company; yet do not you so, but discover a good spirit by the outward fashion of their building, chuse a handsome prospect and wholesome situation; let your lodgings be warme and light, for you may darken them at pleasure; your stairs easie, and your roomes of entertainment large and delightfome; the out-houses convenient, the Gardens and Orchyards to the South, and your own chambers near your husbandrie, yet as farre from annoiance as you may. In a word, let the whole frame discover your willingnesse to do well, rather then brand you to hereafter memory for covetous and basely disposed; and if you can leave an estate of a thousand marks behind you, let the passers by, viewing the house, imagine it a thousand pound a year. For so a second good husband and a good family to match in, may raise it in another age,

and

and then followeth a kind of repining, that my Father or Grandfather was not well advised, and esteemed more of monie, then the reputation of his familie. But above all, take heed you exceed not this proportion, lest either you incur dirision, for beginning a work you were not able to finish; or leave the house to emptines and decay, if your next heire be not sufficient to adorne and furnish it. Whereas you demand what retinue to keep? I answer, have rather one too few, then two too manie, and of all other things, take heed to an idle servant for corrupting the rest: for I cannot but resemble him to a stinking broad spreading bur, who is not only bad in it selfe, but hinders the rest of the grasse growing round about it. And concerning outward shew, by that time your Clerk, Coachman, Butler, keeper of your Wardrobe, chiefe Bailiffe, and better sort of husbandmen be instructed the houre of attendance, and have also an honest care and cunning cleanly to shift for themselves, there may be a sufficient ostentation

ration for five hundred pounds a yeare. Whereas you demand what fare you should keep? I answer thus; let not the Sunday so exceed, as there be scarcitie in the week following: give the Labourer sufficient, for dainties fill not the belly: allow not every one a breakfast, nor every day three meals: have your meat warme and good, but do not reserve the best dish till it bee starke naught: if a neighbour come in about businesse, let him tarrie a Gods name; if he be invited, set before him, what he hath not at home; rather have a little and fresh, then return a great deal to smell of the drie larder; and above all, let not the end of the table be so forgotten, either to be served with blown drink, stale bread, or refuse meat: For goers and commers by the door will look for that, and better, because such a heart and tongue may sit at your board, as will repine at his nasty entertainment; and bee bold to publish your reproach. Whereas you demand what Cattell to keep? I answer thus: for a Gentleman,

Oxen

Oxen are better then Horſe, becauſe after any miſchance they may be ſed for the Butcher, and few men of ſort would cart for money, or attend the Court with a Teem: let ſuch do that, as love toyle and monie, and taſt any pains taking with the ſaverines of profit: thoſe Geldings you keep, let them be well and orderly kept: ſo that if your Countrie muſt be ſerved, you have one in readineſs: the ſervants which ride with you, let them be honeſt, carefull, and well provided, and take heed of baſeneſs, as plowing Cattell, broken Saddles, patch'd Boots, unmatched Spurs, a Sword without a chape: nay, I would not have the Sword and Hangers of one faſhion, and Girdle or Dagger of another, with infinite ſuch diſparities, and meerly ridiculous naſtineſs. Whereas you demand what government to obſerve? I anſwer generally thus: and for particulars, you ſhall heare more hereafter: above all, remember the Sabbath, and rather feaſt of any day then that: not but that the Sabbath is a continuall Feaſt, but

how? for spirituall purposes, for filthy gurmundice: more then necessity of life, and good use of conversation: let no swearer or prophane, once or twice admonished, carrie with you: give good examples by your own prayers; and rather by gentle exprobration, then filthy undecencies reprehend your servants, but suffer them not to be masters among themselves. To conclude, be charitable towards offenders, gentle to inferiors, willing to give, carefull of good neighbours, and remember the sick labourer, and fainting soule.

Yours, with a true heart.

To his respected friend, Mrs. G.

Whether a Gentlewoman may with her credit, let out lodgings for money.

My old acquaintance:

I Understand by your first servant, that you have enlarged your mind with your house, determining to lodge civill Gentlemen, and to raise a benefit from their entertainment: forso you adde for excuse, want

want of companie, and that your house is over-great for your own family : here is now a subject of plentiful matter, and in dilating the same, I must needs incurre displeasure on all sides. But there is now no remedy ; you have in a manner enjoyned me to deliver my opinion, and I will bee briefe and plain according to my skill. I then would with one blow cut off the *Hydraes* head of confusion, and overthrow all distinction by the negative, thus : That a Gentlewoman, whether wife or widow, living in the freedome of reputation, is not be servile in any thing, nor to be dirty her selfe with the dregs of any covetousnes, or sinister practises against her credit. For as it is unbecfitting to a Gentleman to be guilty of any servile crime, so is it undecent to a Gentlewoman to incur the hazzard of her honesty by any base inclination. Now what can the best lodging and lodgers maintain, but the inconveniences depending will quickly over-sway the profit following ? For if they be only men, they must have servants, and
commers

commers, and goers ; the servants shall bedirty your Carpets and Coverlets, (if the masters themselves are tied within the circle of respect & civility) wipe their boots and scabberds on your best furnitures, toss your kitchen, command your utensils, turmoile your house, and upon the least contradiction burst out into violent and offensive tearms : and for your selfe at the best, you shall passe with the character of Holtesse, Land-ladie, Sweet-heart, or some such invention. The commers and goers shall be of all sorts, yea many times Seamsters, Launderers, Kinf-women, and such like, not without some venomous inclination to incontinency and riot, under the handsome green grasse and colour of businesse, and entertainment. If they be onely women, I can say no more, but women will be women, who cannot live without the company of men; and then if the fire and tow be put together, there must needs be combustion, what glorious shew soever the flame appear with; or what admirable cunning is used in the
kindling

kindling or extinguishing : so that, hold the ballance of an upright conscience how you will, you shall not scape the imputation of dishonest practises from base calumny, however the better sort hold their peace to make you an instrument for their pleasures. If they bee men and women, so a doubling of many inconveniences ; there is but only this excuse afforded, that Opportunity is a Bawd to Corruption, and unclean persons are now safe, being so conveniently lodged. This is briefly my opinion touching a Gentlewoman that lodgeth for money. But for others that are Tradesmen, & must advance their estates from the gains of their Profession, I dispute not at all, but leave it as a thing indifferent to my approbation, however I would not have them lose the benefits of their endeavours, when they may make double use of them. First, in the rent of their Chambers ; next, in the increase of Customers, for the venting such wares as they expose to sale, wherein their credit lieth only at the stake in those customary

customary usances of swearing, lip-labour, and the secrets of their business, so that letting their lodgings, may seeme lesse offensive through a cunning ignorance, then many indirect speeches through a customary dissembling.

To his assured friend Mr. S.S.

The danger of disagreement between man and wife, with their duties.

Good Sir :

I T was an unfavoury Newes to mee, when I heard that some ominous action had divided the mutuall agreement between you and your wife, wherein I cannot resemble you better, then to a churlish husbandman, who putteth some headstrong horse into his Teeme, and when they goe forward, hee striveth backward, the servants beating him to greater rage, and the Master wanting discretion to take him away till a more convenient season, so that however they disquiet themselves, I am sure the work in hand, is rather hindered then forwarded. Thus is it, when man and wife are not fast tied in the bands

of

of love and discretion, but subject the whole house to confusion, and send disgracefull rumours abroad to busie idle tongues, with many untruths amongst some certainties. For alasse ! what man will bee so foolish that loveth cleanliness, as to besmear himselfe with dirt & filth ? what husband will bee so senceless, as to revile his wife, and bring his own name in question ? what shall the children think to hear their mother called whore ? what shall the servants imagine to see their mistress distracted with jealousie and suspicion on one side, and shame and calumination on the other side ? what shall the neighbours imagine, to bee acquainted with such disgraces, and whisper that a Gentleman so abused himselfe, or durst discredit his wife ? Come, this must not be : for as women must admit of an honorable obedience, rather then imperious controul, of sweet and gentle perswasion, rather then contentious exprobaton : of a modest disposing themselves to all household affairs, then a busie intermedling
with

with their husbands affairs ; of a fashionable entertainment at all seasons, especially a wise observation according to time and occasion : rather then a sudden apprehension of their husbands distemperature, either in passion or affection : so must men abandon themselves from home inconveniencies, beare with their wives imperfections, not taunt before servants, not burst out into filthy and scurrillous chiding, or reproaches at all ; be charitable even concerning offence, not churlish for trifles, not deny necessities, and in no sort give ill example by lewd life, or bad husbandry, lest wants knock at the door, and then will bitterness and displeasure enter. So that concerning falling out between man and wife, I thus conclude ; If it be possible avoid all eruptions against civill life, lovely behaviour, or necessary business : but if disagreements begin to shew a face, let the man leave the wife for that time, and not endure the contention : let the wife retire her self, if the man begin, and not dare reason the matter. *Yours, in religious care.*

To his approved Friend, R. S.

How Children ought to be brought up.

Good Sir :

YOur last Letters were so passionate, that sure in the writing you vented sighes, if you did not shed tears, and I cannot blame you : for a father that hath an irregular son, and a dangerous daughter, not only weareth out his time to provide them maintenance, and leave a competency behind him, that they may rank in the foreward of civill people, but watcheth his hours, and growes gray with care, lest one will not be reclaimed, and the other step aside into wantonness. Therefore saith the Wise man, that hee that setteth his son, hath laid a good foundation ; and he that marrieth his daughter, hath dispatched his chiefeest business. Wherupon I would advise you, concerning your sons, not to cocker them too much, or be over-nice, either at their uprising or diet : not to let slip their years, but commit them as
so on

soon as you can into the hands of instruction : bee not of that mind, that the rod must be a tyrant to them, but rather endeavour that they feare to offend for the love of vertue, then fear of punishment : suffer neither oath nor uncleane speech to prophane or defile their mouth, nor let them presume proudly to insult, or unmannerly to revile the meanest servant. Comming forward, and growing to understanding, make not nature a slave to cunning or profit : that is, enforce them not against their own inclination to follow that which is irksome unto them. For if you tie a great spirit to a servile trade, hee will never prove good chapman ; or contend with dull capacity about mysticall secrets, hee will never grow good scholler, and so in the rest : let them ever bee where either the best company shall give good example, or if inconveniences follow, they may have the shadow of honourable purposes: but above all, let them neither practise deceit nor dishonesty : for when a minde is once corrupted with baseness, it resembles

bles a stinking vessell, which will never be thoroughly sweetned. Concerning your daughter, presume not too much of our Country liberty ; for wantonness standeth at the corner of every street , to invite the commers-by : yet doe not so restraine her, that shee may either murmur at the same, or complain to her neighbours of her Parents hard hand, as though she were viciously inclined by nature. If it bee possible, rather school her within doores, then adventure her with a pedant abroad ; and for dancing, courtship, and the like , let them be used rather like a feather to a little dust, which may be brushed from the garment, the guard or seame, which shall wear out with the cloth : give them warning of familiarity with the servants : for a curteous civility becommeth the children of Gentlemen , but wanton embraces, sitting on the knee, bearing in armes, and such like, bee fearfull signs of following confusion , and too forward desires : sitting up late , allow not ; nor give way unto night banquets : for they resemble

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the stolln bread in the Proverbs ; and a strumpets title is the nethermost Hell, wherein the name of Virgin is perpetually damned : make them not proud, either of Natures portion, or the fathers dowry. For women will looke in a Glasse, and shall not want any flattering to seduce them to *vanity* : and concerning the upshot of all reckonings, which is mariage, let her neither assume so dangerous a liberty, as to run at randome without your consent : nor be you so transported with a variety of selfe-love, as to draw her perforce to unpreventable inconveniencies, yea many times mischiefs, and confusion. For these matches in infancy, as (contracts for mony without liking, enforcements, to unequall yeers, or nasty disparity, with divers of that kind) are meerly pulleys to wind up care, sorrow, and discontentments, and at one letting slip the hold, to hurry them on the head of a poore afflicted Virgin.

Yours, in true liberty.

To his ill advised friend, I. M.
How servants ought to be instructed.

S I R:

I Am not ignorant, that the two mastering corbes, that govern the reins of the whole world, are *Premium* and *Pœna*, reward, and punishment. I doe also know, that in a statute against stabbing and wilfull murther, there is a clause of exception inserted, for fathers and masters in correcting their children and servants: yet will I give no such way to the violence of passion, as that a Gentleman, or otherwise civill disposed liver, should strike or wound his servant with any dangerous weapon: nor can I any way colour your temerity, for contending so long with that boysterous knave, as to bee compelled to free your selfe: (for such be the words of your excuse out of his robustious closing with you) by the stab of a dagger, which ran 9. inches upward over his pappe. Beleeve me, it was a fearfull falling off, and I wish

in my heart there had been no such occasion given to draw your discretion in question, nay to endanger your person and estate. For if he had miscarried, the King having lost a subject, you must needs have beene brought to judiciall triall, and then Lawes are according to the Judges construction, or Jurors interpretation. Well, I hope from henceforth you will be better advised, and rather bring up your servants so, that either they shall not offend, or after the offence, bee apprehensive of instruction with more gentle correction. Therefore chuse the sonnes of such men, as rather will second their fathers honesty and credit, then follow their own wantonnesse and riot: let every one have instruction for their severall places, yet teach them all to obey when you command, and not one to command another: have an eye unto the honest diligence of the meanest, and grace him with a cheerefull reward. If you chide for good occasion, let the proudest be the subject of your first admonition; wherein bee so temperate,

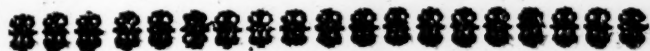
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that undecent revilings heat not your mouth, but words favouring of wisdom and justice. Thus shall the rest stand in awe, when they see you are not partiall or fearfull : if advice serve not, spare not a smarting blow ; which if it prove a stirrer up of rage or contempt in him, bring him to publick justice, but bee not you on him your owne executioner : suffer neither oathes nor prophanation, no gaming on the Sabbath, nor for much money at any time : nay, let it bee rather a recreation, with a modest acknowledging your winking at small faults, then any commanding voice to passe away the time or please themselves : let them not slack the houres of attendance, nor the entertainment of friends : give ear to no busie bodies, tale-tellers, nor flatterers of your imperfections, lest government turn to confusion, and recreation to dissipation : as pride is a drawer on of filthy enormities, so nastiness and uncomely adorning themselves brings surquedry and loathsomnesse. To conclude, in one word, let your servants bee

such of all sorts, as shall do what you prescribe, rather then make use of the time to maintain their own pleasures and licentiousness : as for such as must perform inferiour servile duties, pay them truly, and send them to their work orderly : neglect no service of God for any cause : and if you have (as you ought) private prayers, let all come, and know what reverence meaneth : hearken to the time of sickness, and let them not complain for want, nor cry out to God for sustaining more then they can away with : upon good deserving, adde a recompence, and let none presume to strike or revile one another. Infinite other particulars would draw on many lines, but these shall suffice, till better conveniency to shew my love and duty, and serve for caution and advertisement.

Yours, in charitable advice.

Politick



Politick Letters.

*To his noble Lady, and Vertuously re-
spected, T. G.*

Women in years should rather looke for rich ad-
vancement, then wanton satisfaction.

worthy Lady:

I think it not befitting the time, nor the
tenderness of your sex, to give such life
to your memory, as Catalogue the pray-
ses of that worthy Knight deceased, or
draw in question his want of judgement
in this one point, or peradventure ability,
in leaving you thus wrapped untowardly
in accounts, and bringing you (as having
five daughters to marry) to the house of
care and sadness, further then the sorrow
of his losse, and the ceremonies of his Ex-
equies pretended. But I would rather o-
pen the store-house of instruction and
comfort, and shew you the Embleme of

L 4 Fortune

Fortune, or Time shadowed with a hairy foretop, as if we might take hold thereon for any purpose; and a bald head behind, as if opportunity let slip, were not to bee recovered. Therefore without ceremony if there were not necessity, yet out of a necessary policy, let not the noble Judge be dallied with in his noble purposes: and considering the heat of youth is spent, and as the Poets sing, that *Hiperions* fires burn not with a wonted blase, be rather cautious for a well disposed life, then indirect satisfaction of fancy: this I would say if you were rich and childlesse, good helps in all times both good and bad: but as time hath brought you to wrastle with some inconveniences, you must learn, if it be possible, to give a fall, rather then take a foyle: and both for your own and childrens sake, dispence with wantonness, and bee rather providently ambitious, then ambitiously improvident. For by this match, your *quietus est* shall bee obtayned, your peace shall be made without disquiet, your accounts shut out of the Kings Exchequer,

Exchequer, your household affaires reduced to an uniformity, your lap filled with money, your cares with submissive petitions, and your chamber with the better sort of visiters; your daughters shall still walk in the school of courtlines and befitting suiters, and rather be taught to step up to honour, then fall downe to fear of preferment: even their youthfull desires for ornament and cost shalbe so supplied, that you shall grant without grudging, and they demand without timorousness or cumbersome importunity, their portions shall bee sure of augmentation. For though he doe not open the strings of his own purse, yet from custome, the under officers will bring in Presents: and such Gentlemen as before would make question of some incumbrances, shall now attend your house for resort and noble conversation: so that without controversie, there is no refusing his love, nor disputing with any maligne circumstances of his years and humours.

Yours, in honest advice.

To

To his much disquieted Friend, A. S.

A Gentleman should not bee servant to any man, that hath a sufficient estate of his own : but if hee bee, with what policy he must contract it.

S I R :

I Am ashamed to shew my selfe a traytor to Gentry, and bind a free spirit to the servitude of controul : for the wisest and greatest must fall through imperfections, and hee which submits to the command of another, cannot tell how he may be driven to impatience : so that I could sweare, that it were unbecfitting to a man of your estate, a Gentleman of blood, a housekeeper of account, a Justice of Peace, and a commander of many servants, to fall back into the condemned estate of servitude, and wear anothers blew coat. Yet because Policy hath some secret walks, into which Vertue will not enter, and that I see errors hale us along to dangerous inconvenience, without satisfaction of humours, I
am

am contented at this time to deceive your apprehension with the mist of Policy, with guilefull feeding of ambitious and contentious humours. If then your feare be so great of the Knight your adjoyning neighbour, and Lord of the Manner, that either you must come to the triall of the Law, and profuse expences, or meet with contracted browes, and perillous encounters : there is no such way to wipe away the fear of these incumbrances, as the sup- portation of the great Lord you speak of, whose service must bee orderly implored, but cunningly obtained : wherein I would have you resemble the Lapwing, which cryeth farthest from her nest ; and so fasten your selfe upon him, rather with admiration of his vertues, which have altogether attracted your submission, then feare of your own defects, or desire to bee by his help, revenged on your adversary : & this you must strengthen a while with attendants and presence, marking whom he admits to his secret familiarity, and consorting with them, not so much for fellowship

fellowship, as to be a mediation between your Lord and your selfe when occasion shall burst out, and shew some particulars of your wrongs, where by way of discourse you may intimate, that you wonder at your adversaries audaciousness, not to forbear you for his Honours sake, considering one vertue enclined to another, and hee would not maintain any injustice for a world. As for those controversies impending, his Lordship should command him as his servant, and over-rule all, as should seem good to his honourable pleasure. This is the surest channell, as I take it, to lanch forth your ship in the troublesome Sea of contentions with your betters, or at least such, whom the worlds estimation reputeth in a higher eminence: so that if you can dispencc with some disgraces, which may chance by distemperature of your Lord, and calumniation standing on the tip of idle tongues abroad, you may meet with sedation of Country troubles, and peradventure carry the sway of applause and observation, even at publicke

like invitations, as your credit with your master is subject to report or opinion.

Yours, in honourable love.

To his loving Cofin at Court, H. A.

He that will enrich himselfe by service, must follow some thriving Officer.

Good Cofin :

SEeing you are resolved to follow the sway of time, and become a Courtier, with an intent to depend upon the Favourite of the Kingdome, that noble and generous Count : you may take your owne race to leap, as high, and as farre as you can ; but as my advice and experience whisfers to pleasure you, there is no policy in it at all, considering your project to your selfe of a bettering your estate, and husbandly desires to fill your purse, and not vain-glorious ostentation, or publike glistering with feathers and colors, which many times beare better men then your selfe, to dangerous inconveniencies ; and at the best, draw on expences, without other

ther satisfaction, then courtly smiles, and deceitfull smoke-promises. Besides, there shall bee so many before you hanging on expectation of suit preferments, that when you shall think to step forward, there will scarce be room for you to lay on a finger on the prevailing end of the beam of prosperity. Therefore be ruled by me, considering some good parts may adde to your youth reputation, and to good carriage more respect; place your selfe as neere some quiet Officer as you can; and by serviceable attendance, not obscuring your quality, give him notice of your willingness to be commanded, and aptness to bee employed, as hee shall think convenient. Thus shall you contrive and winde your selfe into some profit at home, and bee known well enough abroad: yea so well, that performing your duty for the privat affairs of your Master, when alteration shall happen, you may by some voices bee called to the publike managing affairs for the State.

Yours, as you can desire.

To

To his dearest Brother, G. D.

The Lady of the House must be observed of such as mean to thrive under the Lord.

Good Brother :

AS I am glad that you have extracted the love of your honourable Lord, so would I bee the gladder, if you did contrive the continuance of the same. For there is no lesse cunning in keeping a thing well gotten, then in attaining it before it be in possession : but if it be as I heare, you are so far from true policy in this kinde, that I am afraid presumption will trip up your expectation on the ground, and give your forwardness a foyle. For they say, you disagree with my Lady, and under colour of my Lords profit, oppose her in triviall demands : take heed (I pray you) in time, and if you mean to stand firm, as you sometime, for reverence of her estate, take her by the arm to lead her along, let her likewise take you by the hand, to settle you in security. For if women wrought

Salomon

Salomon the wisest and greatest of all Princes, out of his full course of vertue and piety, such a woman as shee will quickly conceive, if she be disesteemed of you, and as quickly grow to mislike of your peremptoriness, or audaciousness, and as quickly desire to be revenged, wherein if she be resolute, you shall not know who hurt you, nor she care how you are overthrown: therefore good Brother, bee not deceived in this contumacy, but reduce your selfe to understand, there is no advancing the colours of establishment on the Cittadel of your Lords favour, if the Lady Barricado the eutrance, or seem envious after your proceeding.

Yours, in all occasions.

To the Hon. L. and his high esteemed Patron.

Some Lord or other must be made an Agent to obtain a suit of the King.

Right Honourable:

Although all the rivulets of favour and grace, have their source and flowings

ings from the fountain and spring of Majesty ; (for neither is honour bestowed, petition granted, commission sealed, nor any things disposed without the Kings liking and firm ;) yet is there a kind of policy to be used in contriving and compassing the same. For to steppe bluntly to a King, and urge him to a grant, or peradventure expostulate the matter with him, may seeme unfavoury, and without the sure ground of a high exalted favourite, receive a protraction, if not a deniall: therefore your Honour must bee contented to doe as the Lords of France amongst themselves, one to prefer the suit and request of another ; so that if this Baron would have an addition of honour, that Counsellour is engaged, and intimates to the Prince his worth, his valour, his vertue, his former imployment, and such like. If that Earle would have such a grant, then doth the other take a time to illustrate the latters prayses, and infer the necessity of acknowledging and rewarding the same, with all the gracious properties of
M liberality

liberality incident to a Prince. Thus must your Lordship make some second means, and however Honour could be contented to repine to depend upon the liking of inferiours: yet must pollicy restrain passion, and discretion give you notice when the King is disposed to grace: and so though a present must be exacted, you need onely hold up your head, and be contented till your businesse be determined, in which you must apply your selfe to the time, so far as in honestie you may: But you must speake them fair whom you like not, and smile where the heart swells, and go along even with the observation of Court, though you should take a journey another way to better purpose. These be the passages to which time and fortune drives all attendants in Princes Courts, and so it is fit so farre as policie may not hinder the Peace of a good conscience. For God hath said, they are Gods, and there is no such proximitie to a godhead, as with a breath to advance whom they will, to have mercy on whom they please, and to cast down
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the presumption of such who abuse their favour for dishonest pretences. And thus I leave your honor to the order prescribed, and success of affairs.

Your Honors observant.

To the right Honorable and worthy L. G.

Suits in Court are never dispatched without great attendance.

Right Honorable:

Seeing you have vouchsafed to descend so low a degree of humiliation, as to make me partaker of your secrets: I will surely raise up my self (as far as I dare) to yield you some reason for our last conference; and warrant your honour, that there is no unkindness thrust upon you, though your business seem distracted, and (as you supposed) procrastinated: for believe it, there is a policy of state, not to dispatch Suitors too fast, for diminishing the glory of the present Court, and weakening the Majesty of the Prince: if every one should be admitted at their own pleasure;

sure: and as in the height of martiall discipline, some things must bee absolutely commanded, not disputed upon, all secrets are not to be revealed, and every man that dare ask a question, must not be resolved: so in the Counsell of Kings, and their best ordered Courts, no man ought to contest with the judgement that the Chancellor shall pronounce: nor traduce the last verdict after he hath appealed to the Prince. For if you seldome bring a Physitian in question, that knowing his Patient out of danger of death, and of such a constitution, that some excellent potion will quickly advance him to the pristine state of health, and yet dallieth with him a while, peradventure to shew some secrets of arts: peradventure to make him believe a difficulty in the recovery, and peradventure to enrich his purse by an often resort to him that is able to give. There is no reason to presume so farre, as to call in question the affaires of great Counsellors, especially determining for the common good, without partiall interpo-

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sing either their own purposes or passions: nor can any man come unto them at any time, but divers shall be found afore him, who challenge a dispatch of their business, according to the prioritie of their suits: therefore your Honour must lay no such burthen of the State, to thinke, if there were such an interposition, that any mans private malice could prevaile with the authoritie, gravitie, and wisdom of the rest. Besides, it may be, there is a further pollicie to draw out the thread of this cloth of business at the greatest length, to keep you from a further suit, or troubling the King with other matters of importance, till this be dispatched, and hung on the file of assurance in your behalfe. This I presumed to write unto you, because you commanded: but in regard there be some things you will not command, nor I can justifie in the answer; I meane to reserve them till I have opportunitie to present my dutie unto you, as you have shewed a generous mind, to manifest your good opinion towards me.

Your Honours devoted.

To his well experienced friend, and noble minded Gentleman, G. P.

A Military policy to restrain insolent mutinies.

Noble Sir :

WHercas at your last conferrence you told me (comming from *Germany* to *Antwerp*) you saw no Watch set, and a kind of fearfull stillness amongst the Soldiers, wherein I could not resolve you so suddenly, because you spread no larger cloth of novelties, and peradventure durst not in that place raise any suspicion by demanding many questions: I have now thought good to adde to your experience some intelligences of my owne, whereby (as you well said) you might gather the occasion of that defection, and desisting from their martiall ceremonies: you must then understand, that the Garisons having newly mutined, and from insolent attempts drawne a fearfull execution on some principall offenders: the Governor of the Town and Citadell, did put in practice an ancient usance and policy of martiall

tiall discipline, to command a cessation from orderly watch, and soldier-like services : And this was an absolute custome amongst the Romans, that when insolent and tumultuous Souldiers had looked with grim and traiterous visages upon the face of good order, and made a repugnant disobedience against all law and restraint, the Captains presently prohibited any calling to the Watch, any preparation to the Parado, beating the Drums, attending the Colours, or to use any ceremonious bravery : whereby the Mutiners that were so lusty before, seeing what a confusion they had wrought, and how they presented a sort of Pedlary reapers in a scattered field, began to bewaile the want of their honourable customs, and to confesse their rudenesse and oversight. And this was the cause of the stillness in *Antwerp*, at your lodging in the Town. And amongst other policies of war, according to the severall businesse in hand, of which we shall hear more heareafter, when we have further leisure to dispute of our currents.

Yours, in terror of death.

To his well disposed friend, Mr. M. D.

What Policy soever ambition build upon, it is at last cast down with death and destruction.

Good Sir :

CONceive of me what you please, there is not a man in this Nation shall have more interest in me, then your selfe ; and that you shall well perceive by my plaine and true satisfaction of your demands, although it bee somewhat too intricate to deale in such confused questions, and dangerous relation of business : whereas then you demand the reason, why so many great and noble persons have (as it were) met with death and destruction, in the violent race of their turbulent innovation, and insolent wilfulness ; not taking warning by precedent examples, nor terrified with the ever impending reward of treason, which is the overthrow both of themselves and families. I answer, that truly I can yield you no reason, because all they pretend is not onely against reason, but many times against policie, and at all times

times against honesty and religion : yet can I give you some false fires, and (as it were contrive adulterate excuses out of favour and partialitie. You have read then that the Divell encompassing the earth, did consider mens frailties in his progress, and as the principall mark of the world, he most gloriously attempts principalities, and powers : so that sometimes he pleads the axioms of Philosophers, and reciteth a pestilent position out of *Euripides* : that if faith and loyaltie be to be rent asunder, it is excusable, in compassing a Diadem, and reaching at a Crown. Thus *Stephen*, Earle of *Blois*, usurped the Kingdome of *England*, and made wars on the faction of the Empress. And thus *Henry* the fourth infringed his first vow, to step no further then the Dutchie of *Lancaster* : but when he found no hinderances, he quickly ranged over all other territories and jurisdictions. Sometimes he dilates Matchivilian policies, and telleth men that are cruell and ambitious, that they which meane to have a smooth walk to contentment, yea to

to passe the time in any Orchard or Garden of pleasure, must not onely remove the greater blocks, sticks, and stones: but as occasion serves, pick out the sharp pibbles, and rowle the same smother. Thus *Athalia* destroyed the Kings stock to gaine the Diadem. And thus *Richard* the third, first removed the Queens kindred, after usurped the persons of the two Princes. Sometimes he whispereth in the years of moderate Kings, that they may be jealous in points of Sovereignty; and who shall controle them, if they settle their fears and peace, though they see the bleeding necks of such as they feare? Thus *Adoniah* fell under his yonger brother. Thus *Nero* put *Corbulo* and *Germanicus* to death, because they were reputed worthy of the Kingdom. Thus was *Mortimer* in *Henry* the fourths time, as it were, banished from the Court. Thus was long before that, *Robert* Duke of *Normandy* deprived of his eies. Thus was *Edward Plantagenet* Earle of *Warwick* imprisoned and destroyed: with many such like. Sometimes he maketh the justifying

justifying of a faction, and the loving of one another, an honest cause of rebellion: As you saw in the Barrons wars, in the beginning of *Henry* the fourth, when the King should have been destroyed at *Oxford*, and afterward when the *Percies* maintained the coadjutements of *Worcester* and *Mortimer*. Sometimes he raiseth innovation and treason out of the circle of ambition and vain-glory, upon any pretence of a title, as you saw in the first claime of *Richard Plantagenet*, Duke of *York*, and in the last tumult of the Earle of *Warwick*, in *Edward* the fourths time. Sometimes hee deceiveth honour with covetousness, and bogges the minds of generous spirits with hope of increase of Living, and augmentations of Titles. Thus was the Duke of *Buckingham* caught in a snare for the Earldome of *Hertford*, and not only stretched his arme out to help *Richard* the third to mount up to Majesty, against all Religion and Piety, but to spread the colours of his own revenge against the tyrant himselfe, whereby he lost his head. Sometimes he

impo-

impostures men with the fanaticall hopes of Divellish promises from Sorcery, and Witchcraft : as you may read of *Elinor Colham*, who well expected the preferment of the Protector her Husband, and of *Stafford Duke of Buckingham*, whom the Cardinall overthrew in *Henry* the eight's time. Sometimes he bloweth the bellows of popularity, and swelleth men over big with the windy breath of opinion ; as in divers worthy presidents, and instances of our own, wherein even the best subjects have yet taken a wrong course to curbe their Princes, and making good causes (as reformation of disorders, removing of evill Counsellors, protecting of Justice, and maintaining the honour of Martiall discipline, &c.) Bawds to wicked and troublesome spirits, have in the end pulled on death & insupportable affliction on themselves and families : and sometimes he inciteth even common persons to presumptuous darings, and dangerous troubles, falsifying their wicked pretences, on the glorious shews of the Kingdomes good, as
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in the Irish expeditions, the rebellions of *Straw* and *Cade*: the wicked purpose of *Perkin Warbeck*: the clamours of *Ket*, the insurrections of the *North*, and such like: In all which, from the beginning to the ending, there is no one sound and substantiall reason, but must needs be overthrown with the shoulderings of truth and uprightness. And thus could I fill you volumes with precepts and instances, and both divide and subdivide to infinite particulars, wherein greatness and policy resemble poison in the hearts of corrupt persons, which runneth from veine to veine, and never desisteth, till all be infected: and at last the very life bloud contaminated: Nay, I could have spread your letter to a greater bredth, even with moderne examples, and daily positions: but I cannot name them without offence, and translating of many of their imperfections and follies: and therefore I will leave what I may not write, to a private relation, when we may meet with securitie.

Yours, to trust only,
Chiding



Chiding Letters.

To his ill advised son, T. G.

A Son reprehended for his disordered life.

Most foolish and idle headed:

I Have heard thee sometimes discourse of Historicall relations, because I should strengthen my opinion, that thou hast not been a truant at school, nor a traytor to nature, in overthrowing some good parts allotted as thy portion. But I wonder that amongst the rest, thou dost not remember a certain Law of the Lacedemonians against disobedient children, who were publicly whipt, and when they continued refractory, they were despitely hanged, as enemies to the Common wealth: so that if thy profuse expences, riotous courses, disobedient wilfulness, irregular conditions, dangerous company, and intemperate abusing the time, were in those dayes to follow

follow thee to that barre of censuring, I should surely take no further care for thy punishment, nor fear for thy heerafter overthrow. But because thou livest in a corrupt age and Common wealth, belike thou thinkest thy selfe disgraced, and out of the fashion, if thou be not corrupt too; nay monstiously wicked, and degenerating. For, what hope can I have of the preservation of my estate and family after death, when thou darest presume in my life to carry an absolute sway against my prescriptions, and run three hundred pounds in debt, to all our troubles; and if thou come to particulars, how bare and poorely will thy excuse seem? how ugly and deformed will thy vanity appeare? I broght thee with a gentle hand to the study of the law, wheron both profit & honor depend: and thou hast not only neglected the same; but with a kinde of contempt and despight, abandoned thy study, and because we should be sure of thy hate and vilipending such a jewell, thou art bold to boast of pawning thy books, and that thou wilt

wilt not curb a brave spirit, (thou maiest say a divelish ruffinlines) with stupid and dull incloſing thy ſelfe in a Cabinet, and poaring on harſh and unpleaſant lines. I taught thee a way to handſomneſs and civilitie, ſhewing thee (like a Father) the difference between pride and comlineſs: and thou art ſo far from the modeſt uſe of Gods creatures, in this kind, that thou haſt tranſhaped thy ſelf with filthy diſguiſes, of long haire, diffuſed Apparrell, coloured Bands, gaudie Ornaments, ridiculous faſhions; yea, thy very heele and ſpur-leathers ſhew the lightneſs of thy minde, vanitie of thine affections, and deformities of both: So that from top to toe, the beſt excuſe is the faſhion; the beſt of theſe faſhions ſo out of frame, that wiſdome hateth them, and pietie pittieſh them. I inſtructed thee with the modeſt Oratory of good demeanour, and how weakly they were armed, that ſtood at defiance, with patience and vertue, building a poor frame on the high exalted Title of Valour: as though vice muſt either be caried up with
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the strong arm of robustiousnes, or color'd
with the sophisticate of good-fellowship;
courage, not disparaging of Gentrie: and
that a man living in eminence and expe-
ctation of glory, must not give way to a-
ny discredit. But thou like a resty-jade,
hast run backwards, and affrighted thy
own good spirit, with fearfull bloud-shed-
dings, quarrels, and contentions; expo-
sing thyselfe to barren and beastly destru-
ctions, in despite of order and good go-
vernment: So that I cannot compare
that valour which thou wouldest have
graced with such an *Epithite*, better
then to the beauty of a Strumpet, who is
either mercenary to all commers, or
so kinde, that she cannot gainsay any,
asking the question: and at last maketh
herselfe abhorred, or vilipended. There
be other matters of offence wherewith I
could load you, but these for this time,
shall startle you a little, and prepare you
to some better consideration, against I ex-
amine you further, or absolutely deter-
mine to shew you a stronger hand of re-
formation:

formation : therefore bee advised, you were best , and if you dare forget I am your father, and must maintain you : remember you are a Christian, and live under a religion and law , which will clip the wings of such licentiousness, and deplume the feathets of all such consuming birds of prey.

Your displeased father.

To his much disordred friend, F. M.

Against swearing and common Oaths.

Good Sir :

IF I were not tied by the band of friendship, to all those duties, wherein honest men are, or should be actors ; yet am I bound by the laws of Christianity to plead Gods cause, and not to suffer (as far as in me lies) so great a justice to be overthrown with the violent thrust of desperate and irreligious shouldrings. To what end then dare you so prophane the name of God ? or to what purpose do you breath out the the smoak of Oaths , yea common perjuries ? as if the sulphure of that infernall furnace,

furnace, were raised up to darken the light firmament. Do you know what danger you incur? the vengeance prepared, the threatnings denounced, and the punishments appropriate to such idle and defiling wantonness? Do you not read, that you shall bee guilty before Gods seat, for taking his Name in vaine? Doth not the Prophet tell you, that plagues shall invade that house where the Swearer remaineth? Hath not our Saviour instructed us, with yea, and nay? shewing plainly, that whosoever digresseth out of that path, walketh to perdition. And are not the Apostles the voices of many waters, and the sounds of Gods Trumpets against further irreligion, and undecent Oaths? and how dare you then continue in horrible prophanation, and either not believe, or not apprehend this truth? Besides, if Satan had taught us cunning enough to excuse other vices: The glutton may say he is an hungred: the unclean person, he is ready to burne: the covetous man, he is afraid to want: the murtherer, revenge

is sweet: the drunkard, that his drougth is great: the thiefe, that he is in distresse, and such like. But the swearer hath neither reason nor excuse for his idlenesse: no man enforceth him, the flesh enticeth not, the world provoketh not, onely custome and the divell raise a commotion against piety and sincerity. So that it is almost come to passe, that a swearer and a lyer move in the same Orb of incredulity, and as the Shepheards ran so often in vaine to the boy, that told them the Woolfe was come into the fold, that when he came indeed, they did not believe him. So doth every man abandon a swearer in his most urgent occasions, because unurged hee made no conscience of an Oath. Therefore if not for Gods love, Christian duty, sweetnesse of conversation, and assurance of our contracts and friendship; yet for feare of Hell, and in regard of salvation, let me divert you from this horrible, and hateful vice.

Yours, in reformation.

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To her miserable rich friend, P. D.

Against Covetousnesse.

SIR:

ALthough it appertaineth not to our Sex to take the rod of restraint into our hands, and seem free Denizons in the Kingdome of wisedome, and good counsell, more then men: yet because I am engaged for you to that honourable Lady, and set open the enclosure of your praises, from my own judgement, and experience of your worth: I must needs presume (beyond your expectation) and crave pardon, if I seem to have a more daring confidence in this reprehension. To what end then have you cast dirt and filth into the stream of your spirit, where a confluence of many vertues make a floud of perfection; and even now, when a very miser should set at large his hard bound heart for expences, have damned up the same, with the mud of avarice: you that have carried away good opinion with you in times past for courteous, affable, courtly, well-descended,

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free,

free, noble, and (above the rest) a liberall Gentleman : now to make a stop, and darken all that lustre with a miserable sparing, and niggardly conversation. And when in a time of professing love, which seemeth to shed tears at your degenerating condition, and to whom? to a Lady of honour and judgement : whose very presence may command present and extraordinary expences ; and where? in both your countreys, where reproach stands watching for any occasion, and envious eyes behold you with repining, and would fain look justly awry upon the least deformity. Bee therefore (good Sir) better advised, and remember, that in religion covetousnesse is resembled to Idolatry : in Philosophy to all wickedness, and overthrow of the best resolutions : in morality to the drop sicke, and insatiate disease, which the more corruption it hath, the more it desires : in civill conversation, to a nasty cumberfomnesse, which terrifieth one another, and breaketh the band of true friendship. Alas, what do you gain
by

by unmeasurable hoording up of wealth ; but a base report , and a ridiculous pointing at, even as you ride along. Nay, you shall bee compared to a barking Dog at Cattle , feeding on hay , which will neither let them take a repast , nor can help himselfe to satisfie nature. O, good Sir, though I am no Scholler , yet can I read what other men doe write : and of all the vices which are enemies to a quiet soule, and free born Gentleman, covetousness is the worst, basest, and most ridiculous. For, besides that, it detaineth us from the civill use of Gods blessings in the world , so that neither in diet, nor ornament a man is master of himselfe : it maketh us unapt to the entertainment of such vertues , as commonly help us out of the filthy puddles of disreputation, and keep us secure from calumniation, and bewitching corruption of profit : therefore, for honours sake, for vertues sake, for friendship sake, for my sake, for your own sake, for posterities sake , remember whereabout you go , and how a good and free

demeanor will prevaile, when these hard enclosed hands seem rather to threaten strokes, then promise hopefull entertainment.

Yours, if you can be mine.

To his ill respected friend.

Against idle excuses.

Suspicious Sir :

WHat cause have I given you to deny your selfe? or how could I deserve so ill at your hands, as to drive you from your owne house, when you were lockt in your study? belike you thought I came to borrow money, or beg a dinner, in neither of which, a friend (and such a friend as I presumed you to be, by reason of your own protestations) ought to be denied: which makes me remember a tale in the *Italian Courtier*, of a Gentleman, whocomming to ask for his friend, was only answered by a servant, *he was not within*: whereupon (for his better intelligence) he departed satisfied in shew, till
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some occasion directed the other to demand for him : whereupon he answered aloud in his owne behalfe, he was gone from home : Not so said the other ; for I heare your voice, and know it too well to be mistaken. But (said he again) you are a strange man, I believed your maid when she told mee you were not within ; and are you so incredulous, that you will not believe my selfe ? But (as I remember) there hath been no such passages between us ; therefore I wonder at this sudden dispatch, and cannot be perswaded, but you wish a dissolution of our combined loves. For my owne part, I will not come to the house of my friend to receive any affront of deniall ; and he that will take any occasion of sequestration, to make such a man of my condition to stand without doors, is not worthy to rejoyce in true neighbourhood, though there had been a Wanton in your arms, or any Bag a telling.

Yours, if you be worthy.

To the worthy Lady, R. C.

Against Pride and tyrannous behaviour in great persons.

Good Lady :

IF your honour and vertue resemble not the *primum mobile*, of the Spheres; to carry about the lesser circles of our duty and observation : I see no reason why a generous and free born Gentleman, should betray the cause of GOODNES into the hands of GREATNES, with degenerating conditions. For, to what end hath a voice from heaven proclaimed the Godhead of Princes, and higher advanced persons ; but to resemble them in perfection, and highly exalted vertues ? as for shews and outward Ceremonies, they be meerly tumors of vanitie, pride, and ambitious desires, and the best of our lives may bee compared to a gaudy maske at Christmas, which if it carry more state, and last a little longer in the Kings Court, then another place ; yet must it have a mellancholly farewell, and is forgotten, like

like water spilt out of a Bucket? whereas affability, pious inclination, liberall compensation, regard of the afflicted, raising the weake, mercy, compassion, and such like, bee indeed fair resplendent starres, worth praise and observation; from whose influence can proceed nothing but auspicious presages; and are sure to make you famous to posterity, even from the mouths of Widdows and Orphans, when your painted Sepulchres shall lie troden in dust, and your proudest edifices be turned to other uses. Be not therefore (good Lady) so transported with passion, or open ear'd to every flattering insinuating Groome, that I shall never be heard in my justifications though worthy to claime my owne, nor enjoy such priviledges and immunities, as my Ancestors have filed on record to their own credit, and posterities imitation. For believe it, there is no such corrasive to a gentle minde, as to be deceived in the expectation of anothers worth, and where he hoped of support and countenance, to be menaced with threatnings,
and

and contracted brows, which if you saw, how ill they became your beauty, you would quickly admit of a sweeter cheerfulness and make me happy with a plausible alteration. *Yours, as a lover of honour.*

To his servant, F. M.

Foolishness and dishonesty in a servant
condemned.

Although,

I Have plentiful matter of reprehending you afforded mee, yet will I only at this instant redeem your foolishnesse, and dishonesty: foolishness, in winding your selfe further into such intricate business, then either your cunning or strength can help you out of dishonesty: in converting the money appointed to generall imployment to your own advantage, whereby the Tenants are disabled, my selfe discredited, and you stand under the burthen of my as just (and peradventure) heavy displeasure. Therefore, I charge you take some other course, and that suddenly, to prevent a further

ther account and aggravation thereof ; or you shall find, that as I can be a kind Master, so I know how to punish a lesse gross crime, and make you an obedient servant.

To his miserable and wretched son, R. B.

Against Drunkenness.

Thou Cup-shot, stain to my Name, and torture to my thoughts :

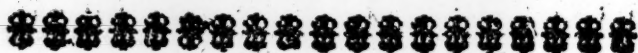
ALL the while I looked on the filthy and menstrous cloth of thy vices , I remembred the story of the old man of *Lions*, who enquiring after his sons misdemeanours, with a fond partiality , began to cloud them with one excuse or another ; as that government and discretion would moderate his riot , time would coole his blood , and danger of the Law terrifie him from swaggering : marriage, and the attracting condition of a good Wife would divert him from lasciviousness, with such like : till understanding he was a Drunkard, he wrung his hands, and washt them with tears , as desperate
of

of his recovery. For, in this vice custome and age are so forcible, that men are so far from reformation, as they grow from bad to worse, and from worse, to be loathsome to themselves, and all civill company. So played I with thee, and dried up thy mothers cheeks with my kisses, kept her rage from desperate fury with excuses; held her hands from wringing with sweet perswasions; shewed her instances of many licentious yong men reduced to government, till wee heard of this eruption of beastiality, past all limitation, or hope of amendment: A drunkard! that I have lived to see this day, and my owne shame and disgraces ripened in thy rottennesse. Let mee tell thee how the *Lacedemonians* were wont to doe, after they had found a drunkard wallowing in the dirt, and like a Swine besmeared in his filthinesse, to bring forth their children, to beget in them a deadly detestation of the spectacle they beheld. But how? that if any forewarned, and by such exemplary cautions terrified, fell into the bogs of such by wayes,
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out of the tract of Temperance, and pathway of discretion, they were publickly whipt: but I am afraid thou wilt serve me like the beastly younker of *Strasborough*, who when his father led him to such a spectacle, where besides the loathsomness of the party wallowing in his vomit, the ridiculoufnesse of the action, set the spectators on worke, to the clapping their hands, and extraordinary jolity: was so far from misliking of the same, that he only demanded, where the good wine was, which had made the good man in such a taking. And wilt thou serve me so indeed? are the pleasant voices of my fatherly instruction discords unto thee? is there no remedy, but I must see thee irrecoverably plunged in a Quagmire of so loathsome a vice? Oh that I might rather see thy death, then this disorder! and cease to be a Father, then to haue so untoward a son. My prayer is, Either mend, or end: And so I leave thee.

Your Father, if you be sober.

Excusing



Excusing Letters.

To his best Friend, G. L.

Excuse for not lending money.

Good Sir :

I Would not have you stagger in your opinion of me, considering I have always with an upright hand held up the beame of our friendship, and would never give my heart leave to entertain a thought of politick misdoubt, either of your ability, or honesty. For the very name of a friend, shall command my person, much more my goods : but such a man as your selfe hath interest in my life and spirit. Therefore beleieve it, I was so destitute of money at that time, that casting up an irksome account of my brothers departure, necessity enforced the pawning of my utensils to furnish him; wherein if any experience or example, have taught my

tongue

tongue the cunning of excuses, let it heer-
after grow too big for my mouth, and
when my wants knocke at the doore for
supply, let hands of Adamant admit them
no entrance to my insupportable afflictions.
But whereas you lay a further imputation
on me, that my credit carried an
overswaying command of my rich neighbour;
true it is, that in former times, as
Doves resort to glistering painted houses;
as Farmers bring their seed into fat
ground; as Beasts and Cattell resort to
feeding places; and as all the World is
transported with private respect, I caried
up a head of thriving wantonness, and hee
looked upon mee with a correspondent alacrity,
but no sooner came the pulling
hook to throw down the fruit of my fertile
trees, wherby he perceived the boughs
bare, and saw the knots and branches battered
in peeces, but hee suspected my prosperity,
and added withall a fearfull prophesie
of heerafter canker-eating and decay both
of root and rind. Thus are my hopes
abortive concerning my interest in
O him:

him : and to speak the truth I am so fearfull of a deniall, that I had rather sit still with some ease, then rise and fall with utter despair. Thus if I have won the field against your incredulity, and brought up prevailing forces to strengthen your love, and good will still on my side, I am then my self again; and protest, I rejoyce more truly in your sweet conversation, then a wanton could doe, if his mistriss were to hang about his neck with deceivable kisses, and counnterfet embraces. For they commonly resemble the Ivie, running up a Tower with dangerous loosening the stones, when true friendship is like *Atlas* and *Hercules*, supporting the heaven of prosperity, and life from falling, yea from failing.

Your justifiable Friend.

To his Honorable, I. C.

Excuse for being importunate in the behalfe
of a Friend.

H*onourable Lord*: Wheras I understand that you excepted against my last impor-

importunity, as if I transcended the bounds of good manners, and abased your greatness with carying too slight a respect toward you; I hope I shall find you so favourable, both to admit of my justifiable excuses, and to distinguish between presumption and necessity. Wherefore I pray you, remember the story of *Aurelianus* the Emperour, who once proclaimed a state-ly sequestration of his person from common intruders, inhibiting all soldiers and subjects, to advance themselves in his presence for any suit whatsoever. Yet notwithstanding, when a Captain had infringed the Edict, and was attached by the Guard to receive condign punishment, the Emperour stepped forth, and said, If hee come for himselfe, let him die; if he determine for his friend, let him be released. In like manner, do I overthrow this objection at the first charge, and besides your Lordships apprehension, say plainly, that if I had not been tied by the lawes of friendship, to expose unto you the desires of another, I would not have diverted you

O 2 from

from more serious affaires by my tedious discourse, and unmannerly importunitie. And thus making no doubt of your worthy and noble disposition toward a man, that doth studie nothing, but to love and honour you, I commit my selfe to that part of your vertue which can make extention of pardon and favour, as I have done of submission and dutie.

Yours, as you will be mine.

To his honourable friend, Sir G. L.

Excuse for not forbearing a friend, presuming to disgrace another.

Worthy Sir :

I Am loath to use a further preamble with you, then may stand in equall poise with your judgement, and my dutie: yet because I would not seem too peremptory, in justifying my selfe, I will confesse, that vertue looketh with a more confident aspect, in the maintaining a well gotten possession, then in the first Fortune of kinde embraces: so that I in-
fer

fer according to your owne proposition, that there is more cunning in keeping, then getting a friend. But withall, if a friend will so presume on the weaknes of another, to tie him overstrictly to observation, or burden him with intolerable impositions, because there hath passed upon him some descendings of gratuities: I see no reason to curb his manhood, or libertie in such a fashion: especially if the standers by bee ignorant of their combination, or jealous that he is subject to some maligne circumstances of Fortune or time: and thus much in generall. Now to the particulars: as you wonder at my repugnancie, and absolute contradicting your arguments in the last conference: I marvell that you would so apparantly maintaine such a *Paradox*: and amongst all the rest, draw mee into the circle of wrastring with our wits, whereby I must either cowardly leave poore Truth in the hands of venomous, and corrupted *Sophistry*: or fearfully bring my prevailing forces forward, to foile your understanding

and judgement ; whereby, in the contention, friends must needs fall out : whereas you wonder I would hazard your love, by so sudden a deniall, of such an easie command, wherein better and greater friends never disputed.

I marvell why you should at that time, above all others, and before such persons, burst out to shew your greatness and power over me, or discover my weaknes, only to be insulted on, when you had attendants of your own for servile businesse ; or might have made some Groome an actor in the same, to prevent all exceptions, or further occasions ? Otherwise I swear for honorable purposes, when the whole body should be exposed to your service, I would not have denied my legs from going of an errand into the Kitchin for you. Whereas you wonder that I departed discontented, without ceremony, or making you once acquainted, when all the companie wished me well, and expected a conclusion of the discourse. I marvell both at your putting me to it, before such
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curious ears, and solid judgements, and at the strange entertainment of a man, whom you know could not look upon me, but with Basilisks eies: nor I endure him, without dislike and discontent. Therefore to prevent untoward disturbance, and so scatter my jealousy abroad, lest it should gather a head of assurance, that you did it of purpose; I left you to murmur at my unmanerliness, but pleased my selfe in a supposed prevention of further mischief. Thus, if these sad lines have better fortune then their Master, it may be you will admit of them as excusatory, and of me in them, as willing to please you in noble and justifiable actions.

Your servant and assured,

To his suddenly displeased friend.

Excuse for not being Surety for a Friend.

Good Sir:

YOU saw at the beginning, that the Divell was so envious of Mans felicity, that he never desisted, till the bands of his

first contract were dissolved, and the hope of salvation abandoned : and so hath hee continued ever since, as an adversary to all goodness, and vertuous dispositions ; wherof, even at this instant, I am a poor witness, and in this foil, which our friendship is likely to receive, an unhappy instance : else could not you have demanded the only thing I have forsworn ; nay, am legally bound to take heed of : nor I have denied you any thing which might seeme dissonant to our contract : so that I request you, with tears, (if a man can shed them without ridiculousness) make triall of me, if it stood with the secrets of our love, in any thing (suretiship excepted) command my person, rife my goods, pawn my Leases, open my purse, and take whatsoever I call mine, but to draw mee and my posterity into the terrour of bondage : Nay, to fasten, and as it were, to sigillate, and affix us to the unmercifulness of men, and cruelty of Cut-throats, is so terrible to a poor estate, that I start at the naming of a Statute, and am afraid of mine own shadow,

dow, lest my hand should bee counterfeit. For, I have known the debt discharged, and for want of honesty in some, and cunning in others, to cancell the Recognisance, a new Information hath made a hurliburly in the Family : and the Law hath claimed for the Prince, against all prescription of time, and releases of men, because the Record was a living voice, and eccl oed out, you must discharge the debt again. Therefore I request you, let not this deniall make any breach against the fortification of our love, nor let the banks of our friendship be so slightly cast up, that so small an Inundation shall either overflow the same, or burst down with violence, that which we once presumed was strong enough against most impetuous shouldrings, either of Rivers, or Seas.

Yours, when you command.

To

To his well resolved Friend.

Excuse for not entertayning a Friend, as hee
ought to be.

Good Sir :

LET it not seeme strange unto you,
that I durst neither bid you welcom,
nor open my mouth with so pleasing a
voyce as the harmony of our hearts was
wont to tune together. For you know I
am subject to anothers controwl, and this
name of a servant, hath in mee over-ma-
stered the condition of a Friend : so that I
can but curse the occasion, when first my
Lord let in an ill opinion of your worth,
into the closet of his former affection, and
blame that ominous night of feasting,
which ended so mischievously, to distast
you both : but I hope time wil either wea-
ken these inflictions, or your fair demean-
our work upon a better Anvile of con-
stancy, and regard of vertuous nobleness
in you both; so that I shall performe the
part of a Friend, in working your recon-
ciliation,

ciliation, and you the part of a wise man, in giving way unto some humors, that otherwise might confound all our quietness. Be therefore, I pray you, your selfe, and pardon me a while; if my duty to him restrain me a little, from running too violently in the race of our friendship: otherwise bee assured, that no other restraint could keep mee from flying into your armes, and prostrating my selfe to your second command in any thing.

Yours, when mine own.

To his well deserving Friend.

Excuse for not soothing up of humors.

Most deare Friend:

IF I could prevent my disgraces, as well as I can excuse my bad disposition, you should neither complain, nor I be terrified with fear of my utter ruine: therefore I pray you bee satisfied with this assured confidence of my love, that I neither opposed to your brothers peremptoriness, out of any pride of my own, or willingnes

to

to over-thwart him, nor crossed your mother in her peevish insultings over my decayed estate, from any prejudicated malice, or desire of contradiction; but meerly to countenance the cause of vertue, and establish the right of truth: Therefore I pray you consider of mee, and as you were wont, maintain that old goodness which hath made you famous to all wel-willers, and mee happy in your worthiness and kindness. For to come to particulars, who could have sworn, that vertue was seldom or never innated in a poor person, or of mean condition: if hee had said, it was little esteemed, as the Wise man maintaineth, that wisdom in a poor man, maketh a slender Oratory, it had caried some reasonable colour of argument; but to discharge it quite from the service of inferior persons, is meerly swellings of pride, contempt, and filthy desires. Again, whereas your mother resolved that no estimation could arise to any man, but from an aggeration of wealth, and raising his Fortunes from Land and great Estates, I had

had reason to swear they were both base and corrupt positions, from ignoble and degenerating burstings out of frailty: So that however the duties of a childe may restraine you from publicke condemning your mothers wilfull esteeming of the world, before religion, or a brothers piti- full opinion of true vertue indeed: I hope you know better how to rayse up the frame of goodness, and when it is raised, to keep the possession against all disea- sures, or intrusions of sin and wickedness.

Yours assured.



Requesting Letters.

To his Honourable Lord, the L. C.

A Request to requite a Discourtesie.

Right Honourable :

I N those Poeticall fictions, such were the prerogatives of deity, that whatsoe-

ver one God confirmed, no other would disallow: nor by any contradictory courses, weaken the reverence due to their sufficiency. So that if *Tiresias* were stricken blind, there was no restoring of his eyes, however hee might bee helped with the gift of Divination. If *Jupiter* give again the sight to *January*, (as in *Chaucers tale*) to discover his wives incontinency, *Juno* could quicken her spirits to such a witty answer as might pacifie all indignation: and so in divers other particulars; from whence I recollect thus much in this civill administration of *Common-wealths*: that when the Law hath had a passage from authoritie, there is no stopping it by a subjects hand, however the Prerogative of a Prince may countermand the same, in another kind: Therefore my *Honourable Lord*, I dare not attempt so farre, that you should overthrow the verdict against me, or by sinister course of greatnesse, wrest aside the penaltie inflicted, but humbly request you to raise as great a punishment on my adversarie, by reason
of

of his wilfull abusing your *Honour* : and me your poor servant, and Tenant, as may answer in proportion my forfeiture, and oppose against his malicious inclination to overthrow my poor estate. And whereas these trials in Law are meer distractions both of our peace and purses : you will give him this notice, that except he condescend to faire conditions of agreement, you will open a larger flood of displeasure against him, considering the circumstances. For truly my good Lord, hee began with me, as that wicked man in the Gospel, who, when infinite sums were remitted him, notwithstanding ran and tooke his fellow by the throat, and most cruelly demanded 500. pence : These things I leave to your particular consideration, and am resolute to relie more on your wisdom, in the managing the same, then my Fortunes, in overcoming the affliction.

Your Honours in respective duty.

To his Honourable Friend, Sir D. L.

A friendly request for money.

Noble Sir :

HOWever there hath lurked some dangerous poyson of incumbrance, under the tufted green grasse of civill complement, and other protestations, yet I was never an absolute and apparant beggar till now ; nor had thought to have stepped so rudely, as to presse your curtesie. Therefore I request you, lay the blame on necessity, and pardon this eruption of ill maners : but withall, so far to consider my business, that these lines remain uncanceled, and my suit bee not tipped down, in the first setting forward. For, good Sir, if you vouchsafe not to send me 10l. as well to defray the charges of the suit, as to help toward the paiment of the other debt, I shall not only lose the benefit of our first proceedings, but endanger my poore estate, which being a morgage, hath a time of forfeiture annexed, and day of terrour

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covenanted in the Articles. So that I cannot compare my self better then to a man holding the Wolfe by the ear, which if he pull hard, he is bitten; if he let goe, he is in danger of further mischief. Therefore I request you, hold up so far an advancing hand of suppartation, that I may wade through the current of these troubles, and land on the bank of security and contentment: which, for that it is not to be effected without your assistance, I am the bolder to make you beleieve, as it is indeed, it is a work both glorious and charitable.

Your expectable friend.

To her much esteemed good Lady.

A request for the entertaining of a Daughter.

Good Lady:

I Desire not willingly to deal with you, as jealous husbands with their wives, who commonly look for that they would not find; so that if I should suspitiously
P make

make triall of your many worthy promises, and find them Court vapours, or formall protestations, it would prove an unsavory search, and dull my desires in their forwardness toward you. Therefore I will proceed more confidently, and frame my request on the justifiableness of the motion, and the worthiness of your merit. I beseech you therefore, good Lady, take this poor Gentlewoman by the hand, my only daughter, and settle her in the school of observation, that she may look toward you, and toward her selfe, as that good servant that doubled his talents; to which purpose I have instructed her with a mothers love, and a womans experience; wherein I hope shee will proceed rather for the love of vertue, then feare of displeasure. But good Lady, withall, I humbly request you, that shee may be orderly led to the sight of her errours, and know with what face displeasure can looke when she doth amisse, especially in the desire of liberty, or acquaintance with wantonness, two such dangerous gulphs,
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that I have seen very tall and well built ships swallowed in their whirlings : and therefore I have reason to fear so slender a bark, and ill provided, as she is. Besides, there are some things, wherein ignorance hath a priviledge : For man was never unhappy, but in the knowledge of good and evill : not that there is any harme in understanding to do well, and avoyd the mischief of practising ill : But because we are rather prone to vice then goodnesse, and (quickly seduced) run violently into the break-neck race of precipitant iniquitie. My last request is, that you will pardon my presumption, and impute it rather to the confidence of your worth than my own bad disposition : and so imboldned accordingly, I leave her and my selfe to those vertues, that can beare imperfections, and regard our dutifull service toward you.

Your Ladiships in all impositions.

To his Honourable Lord.

A Request for assurance of a Farme.

Honourable Lord:

AMong all the blessings afforded man in this world, none may equall mutual societie, nor come near the beautifull motions of worthy neighbourhood, and friendship: and of this I a man instance, and may well resemble divers trees and plants which prosper the better, when the cunning Gardner hath rooted by them, such kind of fruits and hearbs, as in nature they desire, and in growing advance their heads in jollity. For as Philosophers affirme, all things are distinguished and governed by *Sympathy* and *Antipathy*. This made me affect the place, wherein (as a poore tenant, Gentleman, and neighbour) I would willingly do you such service, as befitteth my condition and quality to yield unto, and your honour and gravitie to command. I humbly therefore request you, that I may have some certaine assurance of the Farm in Possession, as you have

have from mee of my best love, and then (no doubt) I shall with cheerfulnesse and sufficiency make my approaches in such manner, that you shall neither be afraid of cumberfomnesse, nor I ashamed of any disparagement. But withall, I (again and again) desire, that you subject mee not to inferior groomes, and tie me to so strict a behaviour, as that the falling of a tree, the plashing of a hedge, the killing of a Partridge, and such like accidentall occasions, draw my actions within your servants censuring, or indirect information of busie bodies. And thus with a submissive resolution to love and honour you, I commit you to his hands that can adde to your merits, honour upon honour, and make me happie in the fulnesse of your opinion, and your noble respect, according to that I shall endeavour to deserve.

Your Honours humbled.

To his loving friend, Mr. G. M.

A Request to forbear a Debt.

S I R :

I Dare not over-gild with quaint tearms, and Rhetoricall Phrases (though I had such a prerogative by nature:) my suit unto you at this instant, lest you grow suspicious of some bad inclination, and secret cunning, in crying with the Lapwing furthest from her nest; that is, making a shew of one thing, and determining another. Therefore I will plainly desire you to forbear the debt another yeare, that I may with a more cheerfull looke consider the spots and stains of my dirtie face, and so at leisure make it cleane, or with a stronger arme cast it lightly from my shoulders, when I shall have time to rest my selfe, and prepare to stand firmly under the load: Otherwise I may fall in making too much hast, and besmeere me the more in attempting with a foule and filthy clout, rashly to purifie me. Herein likewise you shall shew your selfe free from

from hard and griping exaction, wherein divers Usurers are compared to *Harpies*, who never seise on any thing, which they let go without carrying something away; nor over-master at all, where they do not utterly destroy. Besides, I shall proclaim you a charitable Gentleman, and enlarge my wishes for your prosperitie, as you tie me to love and respect you for so undeserving a curtesie. *Yours, if you be not offended.*

• *To the honourable Colonel, Sir J. P.*

A Request to admit a Scholler for a
Souldier.

Worthy Sir :

ALthough Martiall men naturally affect not either Complement or Rhetoricall ampliacion, as knowing that wisdom it selfe is sometimes unseasonable : yet having good experience of your own sufficiency many waies : and remembering a noble speech concerning the commendation of (*M. R.*) whose only oratory, and eloquent perswasion, kept the Troops

P 4 whole

whole together, and reunited the dispersed forces flying away, wherby those unexpected sallies of our strong enemy were defeated, and a new life infused into our soldiers fainting courages; I am now the bolder to present this worthy Gentleman and Scholar unto you, in whom a great spirit, and true desire of honour, hath prevailed against industry, and peaceable addiction to civill imployment: so that if he prove as good a proficient in this martiall school, as he hath done in the exercises of severall Arts, I make no doubt, that as a double Band binds stronger then a single, so shall he give that harshness of a soldier, a further lustre: and besides, a generall good to his Countrey, by such endeavours, gain a particular grace from your selfe, for well applying such gifts as Nature hath admitted him to receive out of her chiefeest store-house. Thus much emboldned from the secrets of our former friendship, and the merit of this my kinsman, whom I am so well perswaded of. I commit you to his hands, that hath helped

ped your hands to reach at honor; and commend our selves to your good consideration of so reasonable a request.

Yours, sworn to worthiness.

To his right Honourable Lord.

For the Knighting a friendly and worthy
Gentleman.

Right Honourable Lord:

I Would be loath to open any enclosure of ridiculous folly, or dangerous ambition, in the prosecution of my suit, and justifiable request, for the Knighting of *M. G. S.* considering many captious tongues, and envious eyes, are busied on the Theater of the world, to pry into the demeanors of men, and burst out with calumniation against the least imperfection: so that if a man stand not upright indeed, upon the sure frame of prosperity and good opinion, a poor vertue shall be easily shouldred aside, and a quiet spirit made the Tennis-ball of boysterous contempt,
which

which commonly laugheth men to scorn with vilipending, not for any insufficiency in the other : but because idleness and presumptuous conceits runne at randome without controule in themselves. Thus might I be terrified, because I have heard some make a Tush at the motion, and know others over-daring to traduce him in private, and yet touched to the triall, disclaiming the least conceit of dislike.

But if it please your Honour to be your selfe, and recollect your own memory, I hope you will answer for us both : For my self, that being my friend, & such a friend into whose bosome (when I shivered for cold) I have shrowded my self for warmth I could doe little, if I would not prefer so easie a Petition, to so noble a Lord, and such, as had brought me long since, out of the narrow entry of suspition, to a manifest confidence of love, and tied his honour to the performance of a greater matter for my sake. Concerning him, hee is in bloud so generous, that his grandfather was the thirteenth Knight of his Family:

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in Revenues so enriched, that he may improve his living, when he will, to 1200l. a yeare, in stock so plentiful, that 1000l. cannot counterpoise the same: in judgement so reposed, that however his great enemy hath kept him from being Commissioner, yet hath hee ended divers contentions amongst his Neighbours, and regained the best opinion: in demeanour so delicate, that his house seemeth a well ordered and furnished Pallace, and his Stable, a storehouse of excellent and well appointed horses: in conversation, so pleasing, that the best Ladies have taken pains to revisit him, and went away with admiration rather then satisfaction: and in eloquence so facet, that though he have not been a Traveller, or Soldier, yet can he dispute of both, and overbear a good resolution, to confirm it in either.

All which being considered, I make no doubt but I have reason to inferre the same: hee is worthy to bee remembered with the immunities of his ancestors: and your Honour so respective, that neither
flattery

flattery nor detraction shall pull us within the danger of your displeasure. And for the main point, which is disbursement of money, he hath sworn the contrary, and is not determined to spend your friendship so mercenarily, because he can so dispatch it by meaner men, meaner trouble, and a meaner account, or giving reckoning of his fortunes.

Your Honours, as you can devise.

To her highly respected Friend, Sir T.B.

For to defend a Widow Gentlewoman in her right
against all wrong and calumniation.

Honourable Sir :

I Have read, or at least given ear unto other folks reading, that in ancient times, when honor and arms were mounted on a throne of estimation, there was a military oath prescribed to soldiers & Knights with divers limitations : amongst which, repulsing of injuries, and defending of Ladies were principall ; and truly if a woman might be admitted unto a Court
of

of war, me thinketh it was necessarie and honorable. For what is vertue, but a naturall inclination to charitable actions, and noble resolutions? and how dare a Gentleman take upon him the title of Chivalrie, that will defile his heart with malicious and dangerous revenges, open his mouth to undecent speeches and filthy opprobry, stretch his hands to entertaine furie and revenge; yea frame the whole course of his life, either to a beastiall libertie, or barbarous doing of injurie? Therefore Noble Sir, remember your selfe, and from whence you are extracted, neare in alliance to me, and one on whom I have leaned for suppartation, and relied in all these eruptions of misfortune. Remember me a poore Gentlewoman, a Widdow in distresse, and groaning under the heave and cruell hand of a great and merciless adversary. Remember the cause, that it is verues, the defence of chastitie, and keeping us all from penurie and wants; and remember my adversarie, that hee is meerly malicious; and because he could
not

not obtaine, what he unlawfully desired, he now soundeth out no note but revenge: and sweareth hee will make me repent, that I either denied, or contested with him. Therefore dear Sir, let me flie to you for refuge, and as far as true manhood may avoid the imputation of quarrels, and dangerous bloud-shedding, cling to your side under the shield of your noble protection: wherein I will desire you to proceed no further, then by Petition to my *H. G.* and orderly attendance on the high Commissioners: And this I take both wayes to be justifiable. and assure my selfe, this you would doe for a stranger, that had not estranged her selfe from good demeanour, and faire courses of a vertuous inclination.

Yours, and sworn to be so.

To his honourable good friend, L.

A Friend entreateth for an Office for another

Honourable Sir:

I Would not now resemble the fish *Capia*,
which cast into any water troubles the
same;

same; nor be compared in my importunity to your Court Tapers, which burne out themselves to pleasure others: so that in pleading thus in my friends behalfe, I may peradventure do him no good, and yet sped the splendor of your worthy love to as little purpose concerning my selfe. presuming still to find you more and more generous, as you more and more approach unto honour and dignitie, I am the bolder to expose unto you the honest request of Master *H.* and make it the marke of my aime, wherein if I can come but so neare as your kind acceptation upon those conditions, which in a manner you gave life unto: I shall then think my self much bound unto you, because of many blessings cast into my lap at once by that meanes: as the confirmation of your love and regard, the gratuitie of two hundred pounds besides the sum appointed for you: the discharge of the dutie of a friend; the answering certaine frivolous objections against my credit: the coroboration of his good opinion and neighbourhood: the
assured

assured establishment of his alliance, and the preferring of true vertue and desert to noble and orderly entertainment. For I can assure you, he is not only worthy of the place, but extraordinarily qualified to move (like a faire Planet) in his owne Orbe for sufficiencie. Besides, when hee knows it is your pleasure to admit him to more private familiaritie; you shall find him reposed in judgement, quicke in conceit, wittie in discourse, pleasant in conversation, and above all, a lover of vertue, and civill in all his actions. Therefore I have reason to plead in so good a cause, and for your sake in some sort am proud, that I have such interest in the businesse: whereby if you nobly consent to dispatch, then shall you double the favour, and make us both obliged unto you for ever. For, as in harsh and unpleasant news, a quick delivery easeth much the heart, which otherwise would wearie with expectation. So in all good turnes, a timely sending forth, makes the benefits gracious, and the benefactor to resemble a
sweet

sweet swelling spring to a thirsty soul.

Yours, if you think me worthy.

To her assured friend.

For advice in matters of difficulty.

Good Sir:

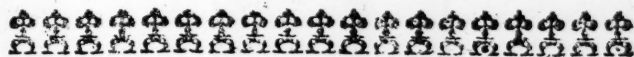
Common experience hath brought women into the field of this knowledge, that it is an easie task to give good counsell, and private trialls of your great understanding hath assured mee, that you know when to advise your friend; with all the other circumstances of place and persons: wherupon I am now enforced to over-burden you with petitions, and make one request for all, that you deny not the best directions, though I seem to examine you on particulars. I pray you then consider on the assurance of my Dowry, and whether it bee not prejudiciall to my estate, if in surrendring I make a change for the Mannor of *F.* which may be for any thing I know, subject to some encumbrances. Secondly, remember the convey-

Q *ance*

ance of those Lands for my Daughters portions, and yonger Sons annuities : and I pray you bee carefull that the pleasing of our selves in present times , endamage not the Orphans in future changes. Thirdly, send me word, what enquiry you have made of Sir *G. P.* who would make mee beleeeve, a second mariage cannot be prejudiciall to my fortunes , and may adde to my comfort and augmentation of Estate , mutuall sociery of a worthy Husband, and settled prosperity , when the mind is contented, and a woman satisfied in her last desires. Fourthly, let your former care, I pray you, extend thus far, that this secret enemy to the thriving of all Gentlemen (10. in the 100.) do not steale upon us like a privy thief, and carry such a masting hand over our prosperity, that we be not able to eat meat in good order, nor hold up a cheerfull face of entertainment, as wee were accustomed : and last of all, that my rents may bee duly sent up, and without further trouble or danger, then the Stewards fee , and the Tennants dinner,

dinner, not that I would enter into any league with covetousness, or sparing, but because I would leave no president of encumbering my Children, nor their presumption to claime an unbefitting privilege. Thus as far as I am beholding to remembrance, I have patched together (as you see) my requests, and make no doubt but you will accordingly, endeavor to continue my assured Friend, as I resolv to bee your well-willer in any thing to my power.

Yours, relying on your advice.



Gratulatory Letters.

To her carefull Friend, Mr. S. H.

A thankfulness for a Daughters good bringing up, and good bestowing.

worthy Sir :

Perceive by you, that custome is as great a preservative of vertue, as further

rer of vice : for as in abuses, it oftentimes falls out, that those finnes, which at first wee were afraid to touch, wee afterward make a pastime to handle, so in worthy proceedings, a continuall progression maketh the race so pleasant, that a generous man walketh in no other tract, nor practiseth other actions then noble and heroicall.

Thus have you begun with friendship to the Father, settled regard toward the Mother, continued with care to the daughter, and put charity on her best wings, to flie for us all : Thus have you remembered a dying friend, supported a distressed Widow, releev'd a succourless Virgin, and taught far more neerer kindred a lesson of true charity : Nay, thus have you help'd the fatherless, defended the innocent, raised up the fainting soule, and loved vertue for vertues sake : so that my poor childe may think her self happy to bee born in such an hour, when you were a witness of the same ; and I blesse the time in which I obtayned your favour to Christen

sten her. But is this sufficient ? or shall I thank you recompence for such an inestimable benefit ? I confesse I cannot : considering you have not only provided for her infancy, over-watched her childhood, instructed her youth, taught her good maners, and brought her out of the darkness of ignorance, to the light of understanding ; but have also made it the work of your own hands, to marry her to a worthy Husband ; as if therin lay the secret of all business, and that it were the perclost of each action : Therefore as a small advantage, I adde the publick acknowledging of the same, and the continuall presenting our selves and endeavours to your acceptation ; wherein I am the rather emboldned, because I hope I have encountred with such a man, that did not so much glory in the pleasuring of us, as rejoyce in bringing his own good purposes to perfection.

Your true observant.

To his Honourable Friend.

A thankfulness for recompencing the
giving of a Book.

worthy Sir :

AMongst many others, *Martiall* hath a
prety *Epigram* against an hypocriti-
call *Mæcenæ* of Learning : who, when a
reasonable *Poeme* was presented unto him,
accepted the same, but returned the Au-
thor without recompence : which when
Martiall perceived was a trick of cove-
tousness, and bad disposition, hee called
him coufener ; and urged the reason, hee
said, he had cheated him of his Time, la-
bour, wit, spirits, and passion : For how
could a poor Scholler but repine at the
misery, and curse the occasion, that had
prevented him from a further benefit else-
where ? But on my soul, you were not af-
frighted with this : For I have knowne
you requite the writing of a Letter, and
when you rendred great recompence for
a small kindness, I have heard you say :

Sic

Sic parvis componere magna solebam.

As for my poor business, I wondred at your profuseness, and thought it a donative from heaven: and when I was telling of three pound, for three sheets of paper, I suspected my self for dreaming, till a Creditor came in, and not only awakened my fears, with assurance it was gold, but was contented to take the most part of it away, in part of payment of a greater summe.

Thus from your Noble bounty was I releev'd, a debt payd, your Honour divulg'd, a good example discovered, and all of us assisted: And thus must I swear you worthy of all worth, and be my self proud that ever I knew your name, and participated of your good conditions: wherein I hope, as a *Magnet*, you will draw others to imitation, and teach mee to take out a new Lesson of love, duty, and obedience, toward you.

Yours, as you have restored him.

To the right Honourable Lord, L.

A thankfulness for an Office.

Most Honourable Lord :

AS often as I was comforted with the glorious sight of Gold, so often must I needs remember your Honour, but when I make use of the same, to worthy purpose, I blesse the cause, and pray the giver of all blessings, to establish you as firmly, as wishes and worldly means can contrive. Oh what a difference is there between wants and abundance, between preferment and standing at a stay, between imployment, and idleness ! whereas before I lived poorly and walked unregarded, now I sit at ease much admired ; and how ever the heart, is corrupted, I am sure of an obsequious ceremony, and cheerfull countenance ; whereas before I was scarce welcommed to any, I am now entertained of all ; and instead of fretting my selfe for lack of presents to give my friends, am now made cheerfull with many gratuities, even from my enemies ; wher-

as

as before I could not prevent necessities with pains taking, and trouble; I now supply even wantonness with cheerfulness and pleasure. So that the feare is as great to be corrupted with felicitie, as the vexation was greivous to bee tormented with adversitie: whereas before my sons were afraid to be called the children of a beggerly Gentleman, and the daughters sequestred themselves for want of outward ornaments, the boyes dare now flourish with the best fashion; and the Girls take upon them to demand, what livings shall equall their dowry: and all this heat commeth from the Sun-shine of your favours: all this glorie from the raies of our regard; all these rivulets of spreading graces, from the sweetning spring of your effectuall love toward me: so that as I live I am beholding to nature, but as I live well, I am beholding to you, and (the highest only excepted) none but you, nor will acknowledge any upholder of my state but your selfe, while I live.

Yours, however established.

To

To the worthy of Honourable titles, Sir F. H.

A thankfulness for defending one against a great
adversary.

Noble Sir :

I Perceive, that vertue and discretion is
so predominant, that you keepe equall
correspondencie in all things. For as I
walked in your Orchard, I saw a yong
tree scarcely rooted, and doubly defended
for feare of a shaking wind, and boistrous
shouldring of careles commers and goers;
whereby I remembred my selfe and busi-
nesse, and when I recounted, that in
my last presumption by plunging my selfe
into a turbulent Sea, (that is, in adventu-
ring to contend with my great and mali-
cious adversarie) I was readie to sink un-
der water, had not your stretched out arm
held my head upright : I blessed heaven
for sending such succour ; I blessed you for
taking such compassion ; I blessed the cause
that thrived so well ; and I blessed my self
that had obtained so much favour : so that
I must not only be thankfull for the same,
but

but request the perseverance to your continuall glory. O how happy is hee that runneth well? but ten times more happy, that obtaines the reward. The good desires of men have some allowance, their charitable actions great estimation, their noble beginnings warrantable hopes, but a constant resolution and perseverance assurance of felicity. Therefore, worthy Sir, as much for your own honor, as my good, I humbly request you to consider still of me, and as you help mee out of a dangerous tempest, so now vouchsafe to pull me out of a raging fire: not that I would have any contumacie in mee abetted by your greatnesse; but see true noblenesse in you spring up to the eminentest height. For Sir G. threatneth further, and when he was not to be answered, told me in publick, that neither I, nor my Champion should carry it away, as wee presumed. But good Sir, you plead for vertue and innocencie, and therefore I know will not be out-dared; with power made wilfull by peevishnesse, in which confidence

confidence I will neither accumulate your praises, nor flatter my well deserving; but settle my resolution, to desire nothing at your hands which is unjustifiable; nor despaire of any thing, which your love to me, and regard of the justness of the cause, may contrive.

Yours resolved.

To her well esteemed Friend.

A thankfulness for lending of money.

My dearest Friend:

ALthough I am a woman, and should rather busie my selfe with household affairs, wherein a good Wife is resembled to a well manured ground, yielding increase to a rich advantage. Yet can I not chuse but heare of many discourses, especially touching thriving businesse, whereby friendship hath been maintained in the lending of money, for which great recompence hath been made by interest and other gratuities: so that now we do not dispute of the unlawfulnessse of usurie, but suppose him well satisfied, that can have
mo-

money lent him at any reasonable rate: which seeing necessitie and corruption of time hath brought so to passe, Oh how blessed was that occasion! how happie were those steps! how fortunate was that houre! how carefull was that Genius! and how compassionate was that overwatching eie, that brought you to my house! whereby you did not only heare my complaints, commiserate my grieffe, relieve my wants, and cheered me in discomfort: but lent me money; and how much? 500. marke, and how long? without limitation: and upon what securitie? my honest word, and my servants bond: and wherefore? *gratis*, without a pennie usury, or augmentation of profit. Oh rare and worthy example! more fitter for Fames golden Clarion to eccho in the world for admiration, then a silly womans thankfulness to acknowledge to her friends of necessitie. So that you may believe it, if prayers could prevaile by ceremony, I would not only kneele, but kneele so long as I could, till God had heard my request

to grant you your desires. Nay I would hold up my hands and mine eies, and lift up my heart and all, and never leave looking, till I saw comfort from heaven, spreading over your head the mantle of prosperitie. In which assurance I bid you farewell; because I fare so well from the assurance, whereby you have warranted your love and friendship unto all of us for ever.

*Yours, most dutifull, if you
would accept of the humiliation.*

To his true helping Friend.

A thankfulness for a timely good turn.

Good Sir :

THIS last was a timely favour, and represented the first and second raine to a thirly ground: whereby as you have affrighted all imputation of formalitie and smoak promises: I have and must acknowledge the same as a worthy kindness, and dutie of a true Gentleman. For however men may run away with the titles of honour and greatness; yet believe it,

it, in the professing of friendship, there is a manifest dutie to bee observed toward the meanest. This caused Poets and Philosophers to describe a friend from the effects of his actions, and supplement of others in adversities: this raised the difference betweene a good neighbour and a bad in holy Sbripture; this taught the *Italians* to crie out, that *Dono molto aspettato è venduto è non donato*: a gift long expected, is sold, and not bestowed as a kindness: and this hath taught you the way to true worthinesse, whereby I stand supported with a strong arme, and you remaine exposed to the world, as a fair moving Planet in a serene firmament.

Your recovered Friend.



Letters of Newes.

*To his worthy Friend, A. B. Adventurer into
the Straights.*

Newes from Xante, and Candy.

Worshipfull Sir :

THe fame of *ward* (our *English Pirate*) hath the same passage here, as all rumours commonly enter into : so that if there be the least certaintie of some occurrences, many lies shall be augmented, and a mint of foolish triviall absurdities set on work : but because there is but one Truth, and you expect something at my hands may come somewhat neare the same, I will deliver what I know of my selfe, and am informed from others : Out of the closet then of mine own knowledge, I gather thus much, that being in *Xante*, and attending my passage for *Constantinople*, certaine *Italian* ships bound for *Cyprus* and *Scanderon*,

Scanderon, durst not stir out of harbour for feare of *ward*, who was supposed to lie on the other side of an Island called *Sapientia*, and watched but the opportunity of their setting forwards : which they so procrastinated for fear of surprising, that two English ships went to *Candy*, unladed their goods, made up their accounts, and came back again for *Curanes* at *Xante*, before the other could overmaster their fear, or durst make triall of their fortune : but when these ships had made relation of a new Merchant man of *London*, cast away on the coast of *Candy*, for want of a good Pilot, or orderly directions to prevent a northwest wind, which is most dangerous at the spring of the year, we were somewhat perplexed, and the Posts were sent immediatly overland, to advertise the Merchants not to come into the Straights, so slenderly provided as they did. For questionless since our peace with *Spain*, divers of your Company presuming on the same, have improvidently set out weak shipping, and slenderly

R

derly provided ; so that what with piracy, shipwrack , and the Florentines, and Malteſes, wee loſt more within theſe five years, then we did in forty before, when wee ſtood on our guard, and prepared to encounter with experred foes. From the advertiſements of others, we gather together a bundle of theſe occurrences, that *ward* had the fortune to take a Venetian Galeas, which he brought into *Tunis*, and had rayſed an eſtate by it, but that it miſcarried in harbour ; that he lived there in great fear and jealousie , both of the Baſhaw, whom hee was fain to bribe extraordinarily ; of the Turks, whom he only corrupts with reward ; and of his owne Followers whom hee ſuſpected upon the leaſt diſcontentment would betray him to the Venetian, or ſend him to his Maſties Embaſſadours : as for that ſinoaky report he carried, it is nothing ſo ; only he lives in a houſe when he comes a ſhore, and is reaſonable politrick, if hee had any wealth, nor to make ſhew of it, for fear the Janiſaries themſelves ſhould rob him altogether.

altogether. But in truth, the spoyle hath been far greater of his piracies, then the goods orderly brought to land, and out of them so many extractions, as there can little remaine to his owne share. For by that time the Bashaw is compounded with, the charges defrayd, the turks payd, and his owne Company contented, there will be such an abatement, that out of ten thousand pound, his share and part groweth to an height of pride, if it rayse it selfe to five hundred pound : and how deerly hee must live in the rate of house keeping, every passenger can tell. Concerning your particular busines, your Factor both in *Xante* and *Candy*, hath sent you many Letters and Bills, which I leave with this of mine to receive speedy dispatch and orderly pardon, if any errors are committed.

Yours undivided, though far off.

To his noble Friend, S. I. S.

Newes from Constantinople.

Worthy Sir :

Here needs no filling a Letter of news, with preamble, complement, or circumstance, and therefore I will only tell you, I am proud of any remembrance, when I expose your worth to my conceir, and glad of any good fortune, when I can avoyd the imputation of ingratitude, by acknowledging your many favours, and writing the same under my hand and seal. This I will doe still, even in this letter from *Constantinople*, entreat you to admit of my custome, and pardon mee, if I take the plain high way of reciting particulars, without stepping into any ambiguous nooks of phrases, and eloquent advantages : I came then to *Constantinople* in August, and found Sir *Thomas Glover*, and his Lady so well settled, in an honourable correspondency to their estates, that I was proud in my Countreys behalfe, that

a man had rayfed his Fortunes meerly by worthinefs and defert ; and a woman had fhewed fuch an heroick fpirit, that ſhee was never diſtempered with the tediousneſs of her journey, nor affrighted, though ſhe met with Captain *ward*, at the paſſage to *Nigroponte*. For when Mr. *Clark* the Maſter of the Ship and ſhe went in, they diſputed the matter, as if it were *ward* indeed, and ſeeming to make a ſtop at the ſame ; ſhee told him, there was ~~no~~ remedy but to fight, and he might be made for ever, if hee had the good fortune to bring his ſame on the ground, and deliver our Confederates from ſo great a fear.

Touching the City it ſelfe, it is in a maner a triangle, double walled, with beautifull Towers ; and may reſemble a painted Curtizan, deceiving you with ſophiſticate comelineſſe, and adulterate ſhewes, but within corrupted, and full of confuſion and beaſtiality ; yet are many excellent things remarkable in the ſame : namely, within the Town it ſelfe, called of the Turks *Stanbole*, or comely : the Turks

Seralio, or Pallace, containing two miles about: the seven Towers, a goodly Prison towards the South-East: the Wall it selfe, without any Suburbs: the *Mosquees*, or Churches, to the number of 800. amongst whom, the *Sophia*, *Almorata*, and *Sultanina*, are the principall beautifull Fabricks: the *Besistene*, a place like our Exchange, or *Rialto* at *Venice*, for delicate Commodities: but for advantage, there are men and women sold, like Horses in Smithfield.

The *Jewes* Sellers are all under ground, and iron gates, where the whole treasures of the Common-wealth are secured, both from Fire and Earth-quakes: the Conduits of water at many corners of streets, where a kind of Officer attends, to give to all commers. Divers Monuments of Porphyrie, Brasse, Marble, Obeliscos, Pyramides, and such like, shewing some face of Antiquitie, and placed where the ancient Greekes were wont to celebrate their Turnaments. The *Balneas*, which through corruption of time, and manners, are meer Brothels

Brothels and Stews : The *Bashawes* houses, Pallaces of State, and of great capacity ; as containing divers places of sequestration , according to their number of Wives and Concubines, which they maintain. A place called *Jobs Toombi*, celebrated for the buriall of the Emperors Children.

Divers *Seralias* for men and women, as Hospitals, to keep them till they come to age. *Constantines* Pallace , and the *Patriarks* houses, as obsolet Edifices, and shewing the ruines of Time , and memorable Antiquities ; the Guard of *Janissaries*, to the number of 50000. when the Armie is at home, and the burying places, both of *Jewes* and *Turkes*, remote , at least a mile from the Wall, and superstitiously Dedicated to the memory of the dead. Without the City, the admirable Haven, called *Sacra porta*, 20. fadome deep , close to the Wall of both the Cities.

Galata, a City walled over against *Constantinople*, only divided by Sea , as broad as our *Thames* : the Vines of *Pera*, a great

R 4 Suburbs

Suburbs to the same, where the *English*, *French*, and *Venetian* Embassadors were resident. Towards the North, the *Arfinall* of Gallies, toward the South, the Office of Artillery, called *Tapinan*: the passage to *Pompeys* Pillar, and the black Tower, 20. mile orderly, beautified with *Bashawes* houses, and other Edifices, proud of comely exornation, till you enter the black Sea it selfe, which extendeth a great breadth North-wards, and a 1000. mile to the East, as far as *Trebizond*.

But if you would heare of a worke of wonder and magnificence, you must ride into the Country, some 15. miles off, and overlook the *Aqua-ductus*, which are raised in the Vallies, to the tops of certain Hills, about 500. foot high, and so carry the water leuell, from one to another, till they fall into a Cestern: from whence it hath a passage through divers Pipes, to many Conduits in the City.

I dare not enlarge my Letter greater, with these triviall things, because I know you have read many Discourses more peculiar

cular and pertinent, and expect at my hand a farther discovery, when we shall meet at more convenient leasure.

Tours, amongst Infidels.

To his respected worthy Friend, Sir L.

Newes from Scio.

Worthy Sir :

I Was almost ashamed to write any thing from these Parts, as Newes, or matter worth the inquiring after, but that I received a Letter from you while I was in *Scio*, which seemed to command me, and taught me the way of good manners to satisfie your pleasure. I would hasten to an end, lest some curious eye make a tush at these Papers, when they examine, that I would fill a Letter with such poor and common Intelligences. I then came to *Scio*, of purpose to tarry for Master *Bradshaw*, whom we expected from *Scandaron*, but such was the misery and trouble of these Times and Places, that the *Florentines*

tines and *Malteffs* had sent out divers Ships to intercept the transportation of Turkes in any Christian Vessell whatsoever, and lighting upon him, put him to a dangerous fight, in which he was sorely wounded, and had much adoe to come off without utter destruction: so we lost our passage, and spent our mony in this Island, where the Greekish women are extraordinary beautifull, rich, and handsome: and the *English* Merchant liveth at great expences, not daring to trust any of us without good Bills of Exchange, or good sufficient assurance of a better estate, then most commonly a Traveller can enlarge. We did also hear that Master *Pindar* our Consull at *Aleppo*, behaved himselfe very worthy of the best report indeed, and had much adoe in those Turkish tumults for to save his life, and keep the Towne and Merchants from spoyling. Besides at *Scanderon* a most intricate business about Master *E.* a Merchant, and a Frenchman, who had contracted a bargain of Gawls to the value of 10000. Dollers, raised his fame
for

for the well contriving, in saving all their lives. For the Turkes maintaining justice in the strictest manner, and punishing the least corruption that way with death, found an occasion to bring these parties to judiciall trial, because it was supposed, that the *Moore* which sold them was deceived in the weight by a corrupted Turk, who was the Officer of the Customes, and broken upon the wheele upon the first complaint: so that there was a present demand of the like justice both on the English and French Merchants; and was not determined without a great sum of mony, and bribing the *Bashaw*: wherein there was no other face of prevention to be seen, then disbursement of a fine, and acknowledging a fault; and so with great difficulty the matter was concluded. About the same time Master *M.* having been some two years before surpris'd by the *Malteses*, and then protesting never to bee so overmastred, or overshot, undertooke a dangerous encounter between *Sicilia* and *Candy* with a *Venetian Galeas*, in a Ship called

led the Corſlet. For comming toward the Gulph, and having ſome uncuſtomed, or pe adventure prohibited goods aboard: as alſo neglecting thoſe Naval and Marine ceremonies appropriate to the State, hee held it ſtubbornly out, rather then hee would be ſearched, or abaſed in vaying his bonnet, and ſo the fight continued a whole day, till he was hurt, and many of his men ſlaine, but being taken and overmaſtered, he was carried to *Venice*, where with much adoe his liberty was obtayned, to the great honour of Sir *Henry Wotton* our Embaſſadour, and contentment of the Merchants, both heere and at home.

Your memorable friend.

To the worthy Doct^r, T.

News from Meteline.

Reverend Sir :

WHile I lay ill at eaſe in *Meteline*, I received a Letter from you by the hand

hand of Sir *H. B.* as he came a shore to see the Iland, and belike taking easie journeys in a Turkish Carmisan, heard at *Gallipolis*, and the Castles, that I was sicke there. Notwithstanding, I raysed up a pale face with a chearfull heart, and understood by the same, that you desired a kind of account concerning the Greeke Church, and Turkish government. Truly your Letter was most acceptable unto me, as understanding thereby the health of him I love so well: but the contents affrighted me, as knowing nothing could come from me worthy your view, or bearing any shew of delight, especially satisfaction, considering the judicious apprehension and great reading of the receiver: yet again, when I knew (if the worst fell out) I was to encounter with love, and civill acceptation, I took advantage of a day wherein my Feaver did not rage, and thus hudled up this unfashionable peece, which it it resemble the confused lump, wherein Nature helpeth the Bear in the deliverance of her burthen, you must with her industry,

industry, either reduce it to fashion, or your your own goodness wink at the deformities. I will therefore begin with the Greekes, who are so envious and malignant toward the Latines, that they had rather live in servitude under the Turkes, then require either ayd or assistance of the Romish Bishop, contesting with him even from priority of place, and ancient possession of the Christian Religion: so that in their account hee is but a meer usurper of their glory and promotion, which he hath overmantled with devises and mens traditions, that neither they can acknowledge him a Father in the true Church, nor hee them, as obedient children to his holy Consistory. Concerning their civill government, it is a meer mangled body: for no man possesseth either Lands, goods, or scarcely their lives in security; but eyther the Turkes command makes them slaves, or the Timatriots or quartering of soldiers by the name of Capoges, or Spanies subjecteth all to licentiousness and incontinency: they have no munitied Cities,

ties, but upon the frontiers of *Transilvania* and *Hungary*, nor permitted the possession of armour or munition : only *Gratianopolis*, *Andrinopolis*, *Philopelis*, *Salenica*, *Gallipolis*, and some Towns in the Islands, are populous and full of Edifices, but far from their ancient beauty, or other Cities of *Europe*. To conclude in a word, they are the meer Pictures of miserable confusion, and ruins of time. Concerning their Religion, it is so corrupted with Age and Pride of precedency, that it will entertaine no Reformation; saying plainly, that *Antioch* was the first Christian Church, and the Greekes made the Sheepe of Christs Fold before ever *Paul* was carried Prisoner to *Rome* : as for *Peters* Persecution, or being there at all, they absolutely deride it; and assure us, that he was twenty year Elder of *Antioch*, and appoynted the Apostle over the Jewes. In Poverty they almost come neer the Primitive Church. For their Monasteries are much diminished, and their Churches and Congregations very small, and of little intrade : they de-

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ny Purgatory, and the Popes Supremacy, saying plainly, that if such a title were extant or necessary, it belonged to *John Patriarch of Constantinople*, with whom *Gregory the Great of Rome*, had many encounters to suppress that rumour: they baptise with oyle and water, have fowr Lents, fast precisely, wear long hair like the Nazarites, allow of no Saints but in the Bible, nor have pictures in the Church but from thence: yet doe they celebrate certain feasts to *Saint George*, *Nicolai* and *Demetrius*, they are much given to mirth, and exceed in contraries. For at their mariages they have great pleasure and pastime: in their buriall great sorrow and lamenting, even to the groveling on the ground, and watching night and day over the graves. Many Countreys acknowledge their Religion, as *Russia*, *Georgia*, *Mengrelia*, *Armenia*, and the people of *Æthyopia*, under *Prefter-Jean*: Of whose particulars, you have whole volumes; amongst whom an understanding wit may select the best, though many absurdities, are

are entermingled with some truths.

Concerning this Turkish government, never came Monarchy to the height of such a prevailing. For there is no subject of hereditary eminence but himselfe, and this Emperour Sultan *Achmat*, is the 14. of the house of *Ottoman*; the Doctors of their Law called *Alcharon*, and the Musty the Principall Priest, rule the Empire; although it seem managed under the Government of the five Vizeers, and other Bashawes: the strength of his kingdome is meerly supported by the Janissaries and Soldiers, who are the sons of Christians, and depend upon the pleasure of the Emperour, as without either Friend or Parent, but the Turkes pension: they love Justice, punish Adultery with death, hate Drunkenness and Blasphemy, doe nothing but to purpose, eat no Swines flesh, nor should drink any wine: They wear long Garments, never uncover the head, which is all shaven, except one lock on the top, by which they suppose to be pulled up to heaven by *Mahomet* their great Prophet.

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They have many Wives and Concubines to prevent Adultery; they write bias, and read backward, as the Hebrews; and neglect all Languages but their own, Persian, and Arabian. None but of *Mahomets* race weareth green, and all are obedient to their Bashaws, and they absolute slaves to the Emperour. For their Religion, it is full of great reverence. They call to their Churches or Mosques 4. times a day, by the voyces of men, on the top of a Tower: and on Friday (their Sabbath) 5. times: no living thing is pictured or engraven in their Churches or Mosques to avoyd Idolatry. The principall Priest is the *Mufti*, of great account with the Emperour: for he and the Doctors of the Law, overrule in many civill things. The Order of Services is suitable to the Capuchin Friers, and are called Turners: they allow God the Father, but deny the Trinity: they reverence the three professors of the Religions: *Moses* for the Jews: *Christ* for the Christians: and *Mahomet* for themselves: they hate in others prophanation

or blasphemy, and observe Naturalls, mad men and fools: they bury their dead with a singing noyse, and watch over the graves, with mourning and howling. Infinit other particulars may bee observed, but these shall suffice, till a larger discourse can bring mee within the reach of your acceptation; and shew, how I have not employed my time amisse, and am willing to give you notice of the same; whom of all other men I would content in this kind.

Tours, with a true heart.

To his honourable Friend, Captain S.

Newes from Malta.

My noble Companion:

Without further complement; when wee parted from *Messina*, you for *Venice*, and I for *Constantinople*; newes came to our English Consull, that the *Vineyard*, (a ship of *London*) was surpris'd by the *Malteses*, the goods confiscate, and one *Harris* the Master, terribly threatned

for transporting Munition, or other prohibited Merchandise to the Turks: wherein the Gran-Prior is so resolute, that hee hath presumed to write into England, to justifie the action; and added withall, that the next offender shall lose ship and all. For you must consider, that there is a kind of Confederacy between the Pope, the Duke of Florence, and these Malteses, against the Turk: and whereas all other Princes are now, as it were, under a protection of peace, these onely dare to proclaim a war: and what they cannot perform with the bravery of open hostility at land, they will execute with the cunning of private surprises at Sea: and by reason the Knights of the Rhodes abated their flourishes in the losse of that Island, they are retired to Malta, to recover their credit: and ever since that happy repulsing the Turks, by that miraculous defending their City and Castle, have stood at defiance, both with this enemy of Christians, and all such as shall support him, to make him a stronger enemy,

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then they suppose hee can be of himselfe : And heerein the Pope is so charitable, that he blesseth their enterprises, and encourageth many Gentlemen, (of divers Nations) to enrowl themselves under the Holy Banner ; and account it a glory to be a true Soldier for Religion : so that a Knight of Malta holdeth up a countenance of such reputation, that hee supposeth his honour to precede any temporall dignity under a Baron : and the Gran-Prior himselfe will not abate a jot of a Princes estimation.

*Yours for ever, though we never
meet again.*

To his approved good friend, G. L. Esq.

News from Venice.

Good Sir :

THERE is no one thing in the world, in which I desire to have an honourable contention with you, as in curtesie and good conditions : so that whether it be emulation, or a naturall motion to doe well,

well, I care not : but am assured you have exposed such a patern of true friendship, that I must answer the proportion, and frame my selfe to an orderly satisfaction : you have loved me, therefore I must affect you ; you have visited mee, therefore I must not seeme strange ; you have beene bountifull, therefore I must be thankfull ; you have written, and therefore I must answer : yea, and that from *Venice*, the wonder of Europe, and the glory of *Italy*; where I have encountred with Newes, which I am proud to make you partaker of : because within the memory of man, never was so remarkable an accident. Know then, that after the Pope had swelled with the repining against the Venetian contumacy, Frier *P. u'*, of the Order of *Servi*, was condemned for an Heretick, burnt in his image at *Rome*, and attempted many times to be murthered : his offence raysed from some certain Books against the Popes secular Jurisdiction over Princes and free States : his Discourses grounded on the love of his Country, at
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such time as the Venetians determined a stopping of certain *Mortmains*, with pre-
tences of money satisfaction: lest time and
seduction should weaken their glory by
diminishing their Lands, and giving away
their Territories to Monasteries: his re-
ward, an annuall pension of 500. Duckats,
and glorious Title by sound of Trumpet
of *Theologo designato*: At which the Cler-
gy so stormed, that they made it a matter
of Treason, against God and his Angels,
thus to extenuate the Authority of the
Mother-Church, by such presumptuous
restraints, against the will and pleasure of
the Pope and his Cardinalls. Wherupon
without further disputing, a severe Ful-
mination passed forth against them: which
also so vilipended them, that fire and
sword was proclaimed, and nothing but
submission and absolution could deliver
them from the savage strokes of revenge.

This so startled the Venetians, and row-
sed up the drowsie eyes of other Princes,
that they all looked up to see with what
face these controversies and accidentall

displeasures, would trouble the world : and not contented with verball protestations, they mustred their Armies, and at my comming into Italy, I heard nothing else but the clamours of war, and war against the Pope himselfe. In which hurliburly, a Noble man of *Venice*, of the house of *Donatus*, now Duke, having been long since Bandited by the State, for murdering a Gentleman, to whose Wife love had formerly enthralled him, determined to work out his reconciliation, by prostrating his service to the State : and attending the same (if need and occasion required) with 50. horsemen at his owne charge ; and because they should not lay imputation upon him of formality, and ceremonious bravery, from winde and smoak, hee brought them by Sea into the City it selfe, and had licence to make a Martiall shew before the Ladies, and better sort of the people : and thus in a sequestred place, at their *fundamento nuovo*, he mustred 50. horsemen, with reasonable equipage, and proportionable discipline, which

which was never seen in *Venice* before: for there is neither horse nor cart, neither sword nor cloak for the Gentlemen of *Venice* themselves, nor any pleasant walk to passe the time with recreation, more then the delicate entertainment in their *Gondolas*, and some Comicall shews on their *Grand-Canal*: amongst which, the rarest that ever I saw, was a costly and ostentous triumph, called a *Regatto*, presented on the *Grand-Canal*, to entertain the Princes of *Piedmont* and *Mantua*, who came hither of purpose to see the City, and the pleasures of the same: which I must needs say, for liberty of life and conscience, Curtizans, Mountebanks, Musick, & Monasticall presumption, surpasseth any City in the world. The shew it self was briefly thus: Divers yong Gentlemen, according to their ability and willingnes, were selected by the order of their Balls, as Captains of severall Barges, which were decked up in orderly representations, of Whales, Unicorns, Dolphins, Elephants, Woods, Fountains, and such like: wherin

wherin all the Mariners and attendants, with severall warlike Instruments, and Musick of lower sound, were placed, both for ornament, glory, magnificence, and adapted congruity, to the thing they attended: and thus they passed all in order, two English miles in length, under the *Rialto* Bridge; attended with infinite *Gondaloes*, and Boats, who rowed for wagers, and strived for the mastery of the best and speediest passages.

Yours, in all places and times.

To his honourable Friend, S. I.

Newes from Turine.

Worthy Sir :

I Perceive by you, that wise men will smile sometimes, and the best gravity can give ear to triviall discourses; yea, and I am afraid, it is mans naturall imperfection, to hunt after Novelties, and the mind is much delighted with variety, else could you never have given way unto such triviall Letters as I sent you, and
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with a kind of cheerfulness welcommed them, discourfing only of the passages of *Savoy*, the height of the Alps, the fnow in July, the falling of the water with fuch impetuofity, and dangerous rupture, the Pines on the mountains, the plowing on the hills, the ftrength of the Forts and Ramparts; efppecially *Agabella*, *Mount-Melian*, *Moriana*, and *St. Katherines*, and the bravery of the Spanifh Garrifons in thofe parts.

Because therfore I perceive you of fuch fair demeanour and willingnes to fupport your Friend in his weaknefs, I will goe forward in my paffage of thankfulnefs, and make you beleeve I write to you ftill more for to exprefle my love, then come neer your fatisfaction. Beleeve it then however, I have feen the admirable Cafles of the Hellespont, which bee the Keyes, to open and fhut in the glory and ftrength of the Turkish Empire, the natural fcituation of *Corfu*, the Fort of *Xante*, the Cittadell of *Naples*, the many Fortifications of Italy, and other ftrengths of
Sicilia,

Sicilia, Rhodes, Cyprus, and such like : yet may none of these compare with the Castle of *Millain*, for Garrisons glory, greatness, Munition, Bulwarks, Counter scarfs, Casamatts, and all things pertaining to the managing of Martiall ostentation, and Military necessity : so that this one place is the Anchor-hold of the Spaniards usurpation in Italy ; and the affrighting countenance, which keepeth many worthy Princes and Provinces in aw, from attempting an invasion in the Government, however their hearts are affected, if any mischiefe should burst out against him : and this is most apparant in *Savoy* it selfe : For the Spaniard understanding of a contract between *Piedmont* and *Mantua*, with another combination of *Modena*, sent divers Agents to *Turine* ; yea, imployed many Knights of *Malta*, and the better sort of *Genoa*, to work a means, that the Savoyen Princes might be sent into Spain , under the tuition of the Grandees and the Clergy : to which when the Secretary seemed to incline, hee was imprisoned for his

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Spanish affection: and till the Cardinals *Aldabrandino* and *Cesario*, with the Popes Nuncio, had streightned these crooked measures, and confirmed the Italian marriages, unreleased. But the truth is, that concerning the displeasure which these great personages bear one another, it ariseth both from covetousnes and ambition.

For the Savoyen having married a Daughter of Spain, and seeing long since the *Enfanta* quietly settled in the pride of the seventeen Provinces, much repined, that either *Naples* or *Millain*, especially *Millain* for the proximity, was not proportioned unto him. And so, as far as he durst, or could, both repined against the same; and hath laboured with his Holiness, to bee led and invested in a greater field of Dominion and Sovereignty. But for all this, I am resolved, no one thing troubles him more, then the escape of *Geneva*, from his proud attempts, and reaches.

So that if either pollicy or strength
could

could prevaile with time and successe, to make him master of the same, hee would quietly cast himself into the arms of contentment, and seem proud in the glory of such an atchievement.

Your everlasting friend.

To his especiall Friend, Capt. Abr. Yo.

News from Zidon and Jerusalem.

Noble and worthy Friend :

YOU and I may well vent out the breath of common Proverbs, that men may meet, but not mountains. For as I remember, we imbraced in France, ranged over Ireland, yea, stamped in the dirt at *Kinsale*, encountred in Germany, saluted one another in Italy : played the wantons at *Venice* ; and divided our selves again ; as if the armes of the North and South should open a larger embracing. For you prepared for Sweden and Russia, and I for *Zidon*, and the bottome of the Streights ; where I received a Letter from you so compendious and well compacted,

pacted, that I protest, I made use concerning the occurrences of those times and places, and received delight from your invention and phrase; not desisting till I read and read it again and again; but when I came to your demand of another of mine, for particulars concerning the passage to *Jerusalem*, I started back, as if I had teen an Adder in a path, and was afraid, as if some mischief indeed were threatned or intended; not that there was any difficulty in writing to my Friend, a Soldier and apprehensive man, who could both pardon out of love, and bear with imperfections out of favour; but because the Papist will repine at my truth, the Traveller complain of my simplicity, and the curious desirer of Novelties make a rush at my information; for, good Sir, however the Templars out of their policy and imposturing cunning, erected a kinde of structure, to make *Jerusalem* look with some face of novelty, and framed a Vault, in which they deceived the world, with the Tomb of our Saviour; so that the adulterate

dulterate daughter of Religion, Superstition, filled their Monastery and Pallaces with infinit wealth and ornaments, wherewith they made liberty and licentiousnes wanton with custome, and filthy abuses : and for which they were condemned by a Generall Councell, and the Papall Decree ; and however some corrupted Pope hath since given way to divers Pilgrimages, and permitted certain Friers to revive former memories, and gather together the scattered stones of the first Monastery, whereby there is a way open to simple credulity, to beleeve some thing, and pay much for the same ; yet without controverisie, since the last devastation, and that the Turke hath peece-meal rent asunder the goodly Edifices of those places, as wee were wont to exclaim, *Nunc seges ubi Troja fuit*, now corn grows where *Troy* stood ; we may well cry out, now are there heaps of dust, and some barren Vines where *Jerusalem* flourished : and according to his Prophecy that cannot erre, there is not one stone left upon another ; onely the crafty

crafty Turks, and the covetous Bashaw of *Aleppo*, the Governour of those parts, are contented to bear with things even contrary to the Lawes of their *Alcharon*, impugning altogether the Godhead and Incarnation of *Christ*; as the Jews against his poverty and humiliation: and for great sums of money, and *annuall entrado*, suffer still divers Friars and Religious persons to entertain Pilgrims, Travellers, ignorant Devotists, Superstitious Papists, and simple Credulists, with impudent, lying, and deceitfull Relicks. For otherwise if Rivers might be turned, there is neither show of City, Temple, Edifice, nor the Brook *Cedron* it self: no, an understanding man dare not say (by any seeming probability) that it is the same ground where *Jerusalem* was builded, and the glory of the Jewes established; nor is there one Jew remayning, nor honest man to maintain a verity: yet is *Zidon* a harbour town, some 28. English mile from the same: and after the Traveller or Merchant hath performed his devotion, for great hire, cer-

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tain guides and Janissaries will convoy him to *Gran Cayro*, *Arabia*, *Persia*, *Damasco*, or whither you please ; so that sometimes you shall have 400. Camells laden with provision, Merchandize, and men, to take a journey into *Persia*, and *Ormus*, in the mouth of those Seas, against the fishing for Pearl ; somtime the Christian for novelties sake, will apparrell himself like a Turk, with a Turban, to view the City of *Mecca* in Arabia, where *Mahomet* was entombed ; somtimes the passage is made easie into *Ægypt*, and we come this way to *Nylus*, from whence by Boat wee visit *Cayro*, *Alexandria*, and *Æthiopia* it selfe. Sometimes wee take another course, and goe by sea to *Scanderon* and *Aleppo*, and so travell by *Damasco* to *Babylon* and *Armenia*: and sometimes have the fortune to go to *Tauris*, and those places neer the *Caspian* Sea ; but this is very seldom, and never but when 4 or 500. Merchants make themselves strong, both in arms and provision. For otherwise the Theeves of those places, especially Arabia, would make a prey and
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and spoyle of all passengers. This is all I can say, this is all I dare write, for fear of interruption: but if ever the sun will make our shadows meet in England, I will justify further particulars, and make you wonder, that so many wise and understanding men as have been in these parts, will bee transported against the verity of Scripture, and the infallible congruity of judgement and reason.

My own, in your memory.

To his worthy friend, M. T.

News from Cyprus.

Good Sir :

Never had such cause to remember the Philosophers Banquet, as when I lay in *Nicosia* in *Cyprus*. For as I take it, *Epiſtetes* having invited certaine Stoick Philosophers to dinner ; for a latter banquetting dish brought out the Globe of the world ; and after they had called a councell, *Epiſtetes* overcovered it with a Fooles Cap, whereat *Heraclites* wept bitterly, and *De-*

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mocrites laught heartily. The first bewailing the misery, the latter deriding the vanity of the same: but if they had lived in Cyprus, and seen such confusion of government, yet all overshadowed with the Canopy of order and obedience to the State, it would questionles have put them clean out of patience, and turned their mirth into sorrow, and their sorrows into raging and phrenzy. For the Bashaw expecting nothing but Tribute and legall jurisdiction, is careles how other Nations either live with upright conscience, or thrive with lawfull profit: so that the better sort practise what they list, because no man dare controwl, and inferiors follow all liberty and licentiousness, because the others make way with ill example: the Church-men confirm Religion but for policy, and are only proud: they can terrifie the simple with fear of damnation, and dazle the eyes of the ignorant, with the gawdy colours of superstition. The Jew is grown so cruell in his usury and extortion, that wheras before it was much

to forfeit goods and lands, now he exacts upon their very flesh and blood: glorying at nothing more, then to see penury and want eat up a Christian, and coldness of charity trouble his very soul. The Lawyer insults with the peace of the time, and to wring money out of mens purses, wrests the Law to their owne fancies; so that they justify their actions only with legall authority. The Citizen is bountifull in fair words, and so he may make his merchandise vendable, hath learnd the trickes of æquivocating and deceiving his best customers. The Crafts-man studieth for nothing, but to be crafty in his cunning: the Curtizan resembles the horse leach, who never falls off till he be full; and when he hath sucked the blood from the veynes, leaves a man to look pitifully, on his sores and deformity: the Soldier sweats with rage, at that he cannot remedy, and curses peace, because it warres with his profit, nor will apprehend any goodness, but in the ill of licentiousness: the Noble women study for nothing but to seem not

to be honest, yet have they a clause to affright inferiours for calling their actions in question ; so giving the more scope to their greatnes, to run the more at randon in pleasure: the Turkish wives understanding these particulars, repine at their Prophet, and so murmur at their sequestration, that to have some use of the world, they visit the Balneas, come to buy Jewels, make Masks in English attire, use perfumes, and rather then they will not please themselves, allure their very slaves to carnall pleasure.

To conclude, if ever the Divell compassed the Earth, and considered men, to make them subjects of Hell, Cyprus is now a pattern ; and the Turks there despise their Alcharon ; the Jew smileth at their Religion ; the Christian derideth the Scripture, and all men and people make a mock of purity and sanctifying graces, or the true way to salvation : So that I am weary of this prophane Countrey, and desire nothing more then the blessed.

bleſſedneſs of our own England, where
the very ſoyle is the reviver of our ſpirits,
and good government the load-ſtarre to
eternall felicity.

Yours, in the miſt of temptation.

F I N I S.
